

2-1-1959

The Palimpsest, vol.40 no.2, February 1959

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest>

Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

"The Palimpsest, vol.40 no.2, February 1959." *The Palimpsest* 40 (1959).

Available at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/palimpsest/vol40/iss2/1>

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the State Historical Society of Iowa at Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Palimpsest by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

The **PALIMPSEST**



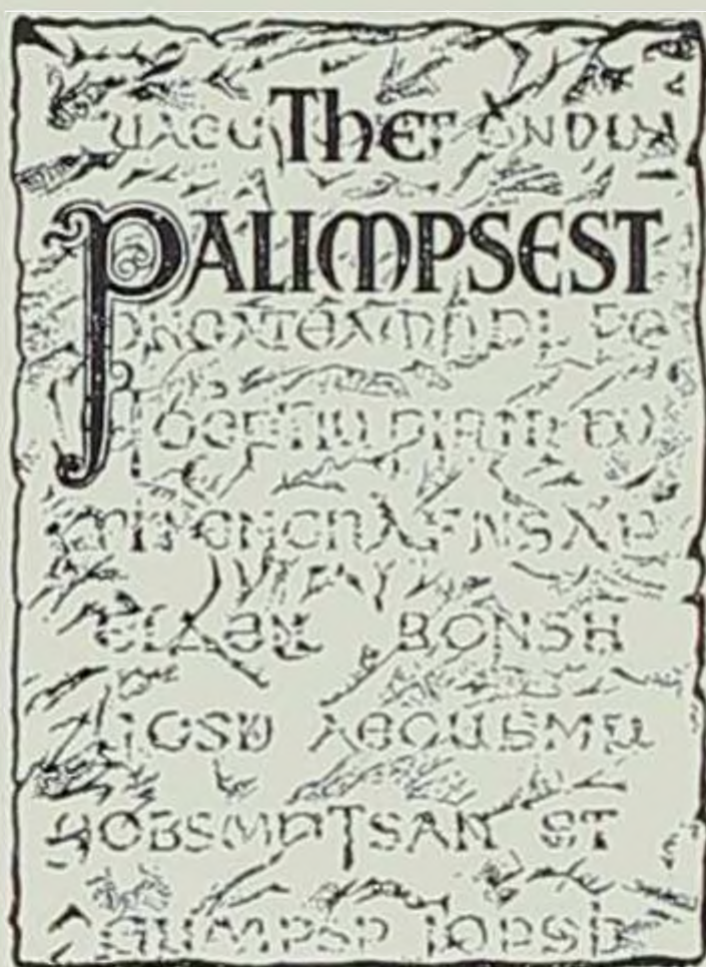
CENTENNIAL OF THE *WATERLOO COURIER*

Published Monthly by

The State Historical Society of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

FEBRUARY, 1959



The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

Contents

CENTENNIAL OF THE WATERLOO COURIER

Wm. H. Hartman — Founder	33
DAVID DENTAN	
John C. Hartman — Builder	54
DAVID DENTAN	
Molders of the Modern <i>Courier</i>	63
DAVID DENTAN	
<i>The Blackhawk Courier</i>	67
WILLIAM J. PETERSEN	

Illustrations

All photographs were furnished by the *Waterloo Daily Courier*. The reproductions of the first issue of the *Blackhawk Courier* and the advertising from this paper are from the file in the possession of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Authors

David Dentan is Assistant Editor of the *Waterloo Daily Courier*. William J. Petersen is Superintendent of the State Historical Society of Iowa.

ENTERED AS SECOND CLASS MATTER JULY 28 1920 AT THE POST OFFICE AT
IOWA CITY IOWA UNDER THE ACT OF AUGUST 24 1912

PRICE — 25 cents per copy; \$2.50 per year; free to Members
MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$3.00
ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa

THE PALIMPSEST

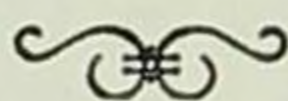
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. XL

ISSUED IN FEBRUARY 1959

No. 2

Copyright 1959 by The State Historical Society of Iowa



Wm. H. Hartman—Founder

On a chilly winter evening in March of 1858 a nineteen-year-old printer by the name of William H. Hartman sat in the parlor of Vaughan's lodging house in the little town of Delhi and discussed the future of Iowa with Martin V. Lott, a teamster who was taking a wagon load of supplies to the recently established town of Waterloo, in Black Hawk County.

Although the Panic of 1857 had caused a contraction of business, an air of optimism prevailed on the Iowa frontier. Everyone knew that the coming of the railroads would bring a flood of settlers, increased agricultural production, and a demand for eastern manufactures. Hartman and Lott agreed that those men who could acquire large tracts of land, or who could become the owners of established businesses, might ultimately become wealthy.

The story begins in May of 1856 when President Franklin Pierce signed the Land-Grant Act giving Iowa railroads the title to alternate sections

for six miles along both sides of their right-of-way. A similar act in 1850 had resulted in the construction of the Illinois Central to Dunleith, opposite Dubuque, in 1855. At long last the Dubuque and Pacific Railroad Company (chartered by the Iowa legislature in 1853) was able to proceed with construction. The first twenty-nine miles of track were laid in 1857, but the panic brought a halt to the project and the company was forced to default on its bonds.

This was the status of the railroad as Hartman and Lott sat before the log fire and debated whether prosperity would return. There is a curious significance about the accidental meeting of these two men at Delhi — virtually at the “end of track” in 1858.

Three years earlier, Martin Lott, the teamster, had hauled the first press and type from Rock Island to Waterloo. He had started out with two and one-half tons of equipment on his wagon, but muddy trails had forced him to leave some of the type cases and other equipment behind for a second trip. The journey from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo alone required eleven days of travel before Lott was able to deliver the press and a small amount of type to William Haddock enabling that ambitious editor to bring out the *Iowa State Register* on December 15, 1855, the first Waterloo newspaper.

Lott's role in this endeavor aroused Hartman's

intense interest for he had served as printer's apprentice under Haddock. Born at Allentown, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1838, Hartman was the first son of Tilghman and Elizabeth Steckel Hartman. In 1840, when he was but two years old, Hartman's parents had moved by covered wagon to Tiffin, Ohio. While his father engaged in tailoring, young William attended the Tiffin school.

In the spring of 1852 the Hartman family again yielded to the lure of the frontier and moved to Iowa, where they purchased a log cabin and tract of land about a mile from Anamosa. Soon William was apprenticed to Haddock who had started publication of the *Anamosa News*, the first newspaper in Jones County.

Having completed his apprenticeship, Hartman returned to Tiffin, where he may have met and wooed his future wife, Miss Dorinda Z. Clark. Marriage then was out of the question for a penniless young printer, so Hartman headed back to Iowa, working for a time on newspapers in Dubuque and Delhi. Anxious to start a paper of his own somewhere, Hartman listened intently to Lott's description of Black Hawk County. Although he owed his landlord a past-due sum for lodging, the handsome brown eyed, curly haired ascetic-looking youth prevailed upon his landlord to wait for the money. The next morning the two men were on their way to Waterloo.

The trip with Lott was unpleasant for it was bitterly cold and the two men finally descended from the wagon to walk part of the way in order to keep warm. Eventually the line of trees which marked the Cedar River appeared on the horizon, and William H. Hartman arrived at the spot which was to be his future home and where he was to found one of the state's great newspapers.

The first permanent settlers in Waterloo had been George W. Hanna, his wife and two children, and a brother-in-law, John Melrose. Coming in 1845 from the vicinity of Marion, these sturdy pioneers traveled across the lush prairie, blooming with sweet william, prairie lilies, and violets. When they saw the sparkling Cedar River, Mrs. Hanna recalled that she cried out: "Boys, don't stop here. This seems to be the river of life and over yonder is Canaan. Let us cross over." This same feeling was expressed by many pioneer families upon arriving on the banks of the beautiful Cedar.

The earliest settlers had called Waterloo "Prairie Rapids," but the first postmaster, Charles Mullan, considered "Waterloo" more impressive and so certified the name of the village to Washington in 1851. The town was platted in 1854 when the population reached some 200 souls; in 1855 the first store was opened and the Sherman House constructed.

In 1858, when Hartman arrived, the population

numbered about 800, sufficient to support a newspaper. Hartman found work as a typesetter in the little shop (now 522 Commercial Street) where William Haddock was publishing the *Iowa State Register*. The terms of employment were not attractive, however, and Hartman soon discovered a better opportunity in Cedar Falls.

The first permanent settler in Black Hawk County had been William Sturgis who arrived at the site of Cedar Falls in 1845. Nine years later, on July 11, 1854, Dr. H. H. Meredith and William H. McClure had started the Cedar Falls *Banner* with A. F. Brown as editor, and Samuel C. Dunn and Joseph Farley as printers. It was a six-column folio (four pages) printed on equipment which had been purchased at Tipton, Iowa.

Although Cedar Falls had a larger population than Waterloo in the middle fifties, the *Banner* was unable to win adequate financial support. Dr. Meredith sold his interest to S. H. Packard who provided additional capital and assumed the editorial duties. "It did a flourishing business for some time," A. T. Andreas declared, "but as none of the parties were newspapermen, and all engaged in business, the affairs of the office were neglected, and its publication suspended some time in 1856 or 1857."

Fortunately, one can establish the exact date upon which Hartman and his new partner, George D. Ingersoll, went to Cedar Falls to resurrect the

Banner. An editorial by W. H. Hartman in the *Waterloo Daily Courier* of August 5, 1893, declared:

Just 35 years ago today the proprietor of the *Courier* thrust a so-called newspaper on a long-suffering community in this county. It was called the Cedar Falls *Banner*. The stripling was wafted to the gentle breezes in Cedar Falls, but it ceased to flutter in December following in consequence of our inability to "raise the wind" [of circulation].

Not the least of the difficulties faced by newspapers in those days was the inability to obtain regular supplies. That same year a group of Cedar Rapids men had financed construction of the river steamer, *Black Hawk*, to bring supplies to the growing population in the county by that name. The steamer managed to navigate the Cedar as far as Waterloo and arrived there for its first landing on October 8, 1858. But the inability of the steamer to navigate the rapids upstream from Waterloo meant that Hartman and Ingersoll could not rely on river transportation to obtain supplies in Cedar Falls. Moreover, the decline of the high waters of 1858 and 1859 ended the dream of a river traffic artery, and all supplies had to be brought in by wagon until the railroad arrived.

Meanwhile, William Haddock had not been doing well with his *Iowa State Register*. It was a Democratic paper, and Haddock had once expressed a firm belief in the doctrine of state rights

and the right of the South to hold slaves unmolested "so long as there is no help for it under the Constitution." There was increasing desire in Waterloo for a thoroughly Republican newspaper, and some residents so indicated to Hartman and Ingersoll, when the two young editors found it impossible to continue publication in Cedar Falls.

Seldom, if ever, did a newspaper have more humble beginnings than the *Waterloo Courier*. Hartman and Ingersoll put the creaky old Washington hand press, the type cases, and a few sticks of furniture on a bobsled and, on Christmas Day of 1858, headed across the seven miles of snowy prairie for their new home. This picturesque scene and the drama which it represents has been a favorite subject for historical pageants in after years. With this move, Hartman put his roving days behind and settled down to make his fortune. He little realized then the decades of toil, hardship, and abject poverty which lay ahead.

The initial prospects, however, proved encouraging. The first few days were spent in setting up the office in the little frame building at 611 Commercial Street. Subscriptions were solicited and results were successful in promises if not cash on the barrel head. On January 18, 1859, the first issue of *The Blackhawk Courier* was published, "Devoted to General News, Agriculture, Science and the Diffusion of Republican Principles."

During its first year the population of Waterloo

increased to between 1,000 and 1,200, and a considerable volume of legal notices continued to support the paper. Meanwhile, the *Iowa State Register* was not meeting with favor among the increasingly dominant Republican majority in the town. Haddock accordingly discontinued his *Iowa State Register*, selling much of his material to a new Waverly paper. His press, somewhat larger than that which had previously been used in printing the *Courier*, was purchased by Hartman and Ingersoll who printed their first eight-column folio — the *Waterloo Courier*, on November 22, 1859.

Unfortunately, a scant six months elapsed between the elimination of the *Iowa State Register* and the advent of a new competitor. It was on March 16, 1860, that H. A. and G. D. Perkins established the *Cedar Falls Gazette*, and the *Courier* lost the small amount of Cedar Falls advertising which had been appearing in its columns.

From this point on, financial insecurity began to plague the *Courier*. Hoping to obtain the support from legal notices and other advertising in Grundy County, Hartman founded the first newspaper in that county, the *Grundy County Pioneer*, at Grundy Center on August 2, 1860, with J. M. Chaffee as editor and John H. Wilson as printer. One side of the sheet was printed in Waterloo with the material used in the *Courier* and the other side was printed by Wilson at Grundy Center with the local news and such official advertising as the delin-

quent tax list. But the paper survived only about a year.

Despite such difficulties, Hartman was able to take two important steps. In September, 1860, he bought out his partner, Ingersoll, and in October he returned to Tiffin, Ohio, where he married Miss Dorinda Z. Clark. The couple immediately set up housekeeping in Waterloo where one of Mrs. Hartman's first tasks was to provide board for the printer's apprentices. Entries in Hartman's record book, which survives, indicate that the "devils" were paid during the early sixties from \$40 to \$50 for the first year plus board and washing. The salary increased to \$80 or \$90 for the third year.

An insight into the life of apprentices in those days is provided by Edwin Mesick who started work for the *Courier* as a printer's devil in 1863 at the age of fifteen and remained with the paper for forty-three years. He says:

After breakfast, we were introduced to a wood pile at the rear of the house where we found one of the dullest axes it was ever our good fortune to wield, and at once proceeded to demolish sundry slabs of red elm, so green that the water oozed out of them as we split them up. How the women folks ever prepared meals with such fuel has ever been a wonder to your scribe, but we cheerfully testify to the fact that they did, just the same.

Mesick wrote that the printing office at that time consisted of two rooms containing the old Washington hand press, a job press large enough to

print letterheads, a small quantity of news type, a few fonts of display type, some wood letters, racks for holding type cases, and a few pieces of furniture. The apprentices slept in bunks under the type cases.

Despite the lack of money and the general hard times, emigrants continued to arrive in the county and many settled in Waterloo. "We find the following notice of Waterloo in the *Dubuque Herald* of the 22 inst." declared Hartman on March 27, 1860. "It is correct, we believe, with the exception that our population is not put down large enough. Instead of 1,500 inhabitants, we now have 1,800 or 2,000."

Waterloo — the largest inland town between Dubuque and Sioux City — is situated on the Cedar, the noblest river in the state, and which at this point flows in a broad, strong current through the town. The place contains 1,500 inhabitants and has a most beautiful site, the prairie coming boldly up to the stream.

Meanwhile, Hartman and all Waterloo waited impatiently for the arrival of the railroad. Construction on the Dubuque and Pacific line had been resumed in the summer of 1859, and the road reached Independence by December 12. The following March the railroad reached a spot 78 miles west of Dubuque.

Hoping to exploit the enthusiasm of Waterloo citizens for the railroad, the directors now demanded that the city subscribe the enormous sum

of \$200,000 in stock as the price of crossing the river at Waterloo and establishing a terminus there. But the county judge (who then had the powers of the present board of supervisors) refused to sign the bonds. The railroad retaliated by accepting the offer of Cedar Falls citizens for \$75,000 worth of land, laid tracks north of Waterloo, and crossed the Cedar into that city in the spring of 1861.

Realizing that the city which obtained the repair shops would enjoy the most rapid growth, Waterloo citizens stole a march on Cedar Falls by donating a large tract of land east of the city and raising \$30,000 to construct the railroad shops. With good feeling restored, the railroad laid tracks into downtown Waterloo where a passenger depot was erected.

These were days of intense rivalry between Waterloo and Cedar Falls. The legislature in 1853 had designated Cedar Falls as the county seat of Black Hawk, and the deplorable but exciting theory developed in Waterloo that the county seat could be moved if only the official county records and plat books could be stolen from Cedar Falls. An expedition marched to Cedar Falls one dark night and prepared to commit the crime, but a traitor had warned the good burghers of Cedar Falls who armed themselves with rotten eggs and promptly forced the Waterloo band to retreat in stinking humiliation.

But Waterloo soon was able to gain by legal means what it had been unable to win by force. The legislature called an election in 1855, and Waterloo won the county seat, even though Cedar Falls citizens muttered darkly that Waterloo had imported numerous visitors from Benton County to win the day.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the editor of the *Courier* and the editors of the Cedar Falls *Gazette* were not averse to building reader interest by hurling epithets at each other. There were few issues of the *Courier* or the *Gazette* in those days which did not contain a "challenge" or a "reply to a challenge." Thus, on May 23, 1861, the *Gazette* declared:

Although the cars commenced running regularly to Waterloo almost a month before they did to this place, we will bet that there has been double the amount of freight handled at our depot than at that of Waterloo, and we will challenge the *Courier* to produce the figures.

After further invective about alleged *Courier* insults to Cedar Falls, the editors of the *Gazette* awaited a reply. It was not long in coming. After characterizing the *Gazette* as a "smut mill," the *Courier* declared:

That we have pitched into "naughty rival neighbors" is untrue. The *Courier* has never yet spoken a disrespectful word of Cedar Falls; but the *Gazette* has been incessantly "blowing" about Waterloo. That paper finds fault with every enterprise our town undertakes. . . . The people of

Cedar Falls ought by all means to reward the *Gazette* for telling such contemptible fibs in favor of their little village.

These insults, however, were merely designed to build up civic pride and spur citizens into competitive activity on such projects as the attempts to obtain the railroad repair shops. Following the Civil War, the Perkins brothers went to Sioux City where they began publication of the *Journal*, one of Iowa's most influential newspapers today.

If civic rivalry was good fun, however, both the Perkins brothers and Hartman were intensely interested in promoting the success of the Republican party both nationally and in Iowa. On May 1, 1860, Hartman had written of Republican prospects:

The coming political contest will be the most important one in which the people of Iowa have ever participated. The election of a Republican president (and the consequent change in the present extravagant and corrupt administration of our national affairs) ought of itself to be of sufficient importance to call forth the most strenuous exertions of our party to secure its accomplishment.

This hoped-for result on November 6 of that year was only to bring a period of hardship and financial distress for Hartman. War came with the firing on Fort Sumter, and the *Courier* printed the news two days later on April 16, 1861, under the following headline on column three of page two:

FORT SUMTER ATTACKED AND BURNED
THE AMERICAN FLAG HAULED DOWN
and
THE PALMETTO WAVING OVER FORT SUMTER

The act aroused the residents of Black Hawk County to a fury of patriotism. No one foresaw the bloody struggle which lay ahead; and the *Courier* bravely declared:

For four weeks after the fourth of March the administration of Mr. Lincoln seemed to be as inert and weak, and timid as that of his predecessor; yet now we see that it was working with extraordinary vigor, but so quietly that neither friends nor foes could tell what it was doing or whether it was doing anything.

In Waterloo, mass meetings were held to whip up enthusiasm, and a popular speaker was a minister, "Father" Eberhart, who gave five sons to the Union Army and volunteered himself as a chaplain.

A secessionist lawyer named Rawson was one day dragged from his hiding place and brought to the street in front of the Sherman House, where a rope with a noose at the end dangled from the ridge pole which extended over the sidewalk. An eyewitness later described the affair:

With disheveled hair and torn coat, he was mounted on a dry goods box and made a speech to the assembled crowd in which he expressed very modified views on the subject which then engrossed them all.

The departure of men for the war did not sim-

plify the problem of running a newspaper. Hartman himself had suffered an injury in his youth which prevented him from serving in the field, but his young apprentice, Ner Corson, and his helper, Barton Clark, promptly enlisted. Clark was Mrs. Hartman's younger brother. Hartman hired other apprentices but they, too, soon enlisted; at one point the hard-working editor was left all alone in the office attempting to get out a paper.

By this time, the Hartmans had a family of three children: John C., born on June 21, 1861; William D., born on February 16, 1863; and Genevieve, born on July 6, 1867. The father was sometimes forced to desperate measures to keep the paper going. A good printer could set only about a column and one-half in a day. Leads and slugs had to be cast and sawed by hand. The task of moulding the mixture of glue and molasses to the press rollers, J. C. Hartman later recalled, "was one requiring skill and infinite patience."

Hartman was at times forced to reduce the size of the paper to six columns because not enough type could be set nor paper of the right size obtained. Despite such difficulties, he missed few editions.

Although the first cylinder press had been obtained to replace the old Washington hand press, this in itself created problems as the following desperate "Apology" reveals:

No paper was printed in this office last week for the very

reason that our "institution" was "froze up" completely. We did our "prettiest" to get up a paper, but all our efforts proved fruitless. The office was as cold as a barn all last week, and with eight windows on the north side, a chimney with no draft, and having nothing but green, water-soaked elm wood with which to get up steam (for the press), we would like to know how anybody can set type or do anything else in a printing office under such circumstances. We will issue the Courier regularly hereafter if it "takes a leg."

Poorly trained apprentices created other difficulties as this paragraph in the issue of July 31, 1861, reveals:

After printing the outside of this issue, one of our employees, in attempting to lift the fourth page off the press, accidentally let it drop on the floor, and the consequence is, every line of advertising was knocked into "pi."

On July 1, 1861, Hartman noted: "Our receipts on subscriptions since June 1 are as follows: To wood, \$1.50; peas, 75 cents; money (at least said to be money by those who saw it) 42 cents."

Edwin Mesick, the apprentice who started work in 1863, recalled those terrible times:

The man in business today [1909] can hardly realize the struggles and hardships borne by the businessmen of a half-century ago. There came a time in the history of the Courier when its proprietor had to have money, no matter at what cost, or lose his whole investment. Then it was that Mr. Hartman applied to a local money loaner and was compelled to pay the outrageous price of 3 per cent a month for the accommodation of a small loan.

The *Courier* needed new funds if it was to survive. Finally, on November 14, 1864, J. W. Logan purchased a half interest. Publication was continued "until the end of the war" although on a desperate basis. At last, on April 10, 1865, the *Courier* was able to report the stirring scenes in Waterloo when the news arrived of General Robert E. Lee's surrender. But it was a short-lived celebration, as one eyewitness recalled:

Is there a soul living in Waterloo of mature years who cannot remember that fateful Saturday morning when business houses were closed and men stood in whispering groups about the street, seemingly paralyzed, stunned by the sudden, awful news that our beloved president was assassinated?

Having survived the war, the *Courier* found itself confronted with new competition in Waterloo. On May 13, 1868, the *Iowa State Reporter* was started by H. Q. Nicholson with great bravado as a Democratic paper. It was a daring move, for Black Hawk County in 1868 had cast only 841 Democratic votes out of 3,421 cast in the election.

Late in the year Nicholson was called South by the illness of his father. Shop employees continued publication for some time, but when the editor failed to return, it was allowed to expire. J. J. Smart & Matt Parrott purchased the material and subscription list in February of 1869, and publication of the *Reporter* was resumed on April 14, 1869, as a Republican paper.

The *Reporter* provided vigorous competition for the *Courier*. Matt Parrott, who was to serve as mayor of Waterloo and later as lieutenant governor of Iowa, was an able editor. Whatever the reasons, Hartman and Logan in April of 1871 entered into a contract to sell the *Courier* to M. C. Woodruff and Charles Aldrich, later curator of the Historical Department of Iowa. Circumstances surrounding the sale are obscure, but J. C. Hartman, in his history of the *Courier*, declared:

Mr. Hartman did not relinquish his interest, for the terms of the contract were not consummated. In October, 1871, he took over Mr. Aldrich's interest. A. J. Felt acquired Mr. Woodruff's interest February 5, 1875 and the firm became Felt & Hartman. Fourteen months later, on April 16, 1876, Mr. Hartman became sole owner.

Hartman was able to regain control of his newspaper because President Grant had appointed him postmaster in 1873, and he could divert part of his salary from this position into support of the *Courier*. He served as postmaster until 1885 when President Grover Cleveland named a Democrat successor.

Another postoffice connection was to have significance in *Courier* history. A few years after Hartman retired as postmaster, a young student by the name of J. P. von Lackum became one of the first three mail carriers in Waterloo at the salary of \$600 a year. With his savings from this position, he managed to graduate from the dental

school at the State University of Iowa. He later married Miss Genevieve Hartman, and their children own the family stock in the *Courier* today.

Meanwhile, Matt Parrott, who had written in 1869 that "An editor . . . has no business holding office," severed his connection with the *Reporter* to enter politics. During the seventies the *Courier* and the *Reporter* ran neck-and-neck in circulation. A newspaper directory in 1876 gives the *Courier* circulation as 1,224 as compared to 1,200 for the *Reporter*.

But the Democrats were unhappy without a paper to promote their views; and on September 11, 1879, Isaiah Van Metre and J. H. Wilson started the *Cedar Valley Tribune*, later to become the *Waterloo Tribune*. Van Metre had been admitted to the bar in Cedar Rapids in 1858, had purchased the *Humboldt County Independent* in 1872, and had acquired a half interest in the Cedar Falls *Recorder* in 1877. He became sole owner of the *Tribune* in 1885. The paper became a daily, the *Waterloo Morning Tribune*, in 1904.

Previously, however, the *Courier* had experimented with daily publication for a week during the county fair period in the fall of 1878. On December 13, 1890, the newspaper became a daily permanently. The W. H. Hartman Company was incorporated in 1891 with W. H. Hartman as president and J. C. Hartman, his son, as secretary-treasurer.

Meanwhile, the *Courier* had been keeping pace with mechanical developments in the printing field. In the seventies, an attempt had been made to replace the old Bookwalter steam boiler with an upright gas engine, but this primitive mechanism proved unsatisfactory. Then a water motor was tried, but pressure proved too variable for reliability. Finally, an improved gasoline engine (manufactured in Waterloo) was used satisfactorily until the advent of electric motors.

The last quarter of the nineteenth century saw Waterloo change from a small frontier village to a prosperous trading center and the site of small industries which were to lay the groundwork for later industrial development. The population of 5,508 in 1875 increased to 12,580 by 1900. The old dream of a Cedar Valley railroad reached fruition in September of 1870 when the first train of the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota Railroad (later acquired by the Rock Island) arrived. On August 18, 1884, the first train of the Chicago, Great Western Railroad arrived, giving Waterloo direct connections with Des Moines and Kansas City. Horse-drawn streetcar service was inaugurated in 1885, and eleven years later the company which was to become the Waterloo, Cedar Falls & Northern Railway Company (an electric interurban line) began electric service.

But W. H. Hartman was destined not to see the rapid growth of Waterloo in the early part of the

twentieth century. He died on July 1, 1895, revered and loved by thousands of his subscribers. Staff members recounted how in his later years subscribers or advertisers would come to the *Courier* office and refuse to do business with anyone but "Will" Hartman. He had passed through long years of fatiguing work and endured real poverty in his attempts to keep the newspaper going, but he left a business firmly entrenched in the commercial life of the city and in the respect of Waterloo citizens.

DAVID DENTAN

John C. Hartman—Builder

John C. Hartman, who had been reared in the printshop and the newsroom, became editor and publisher of the *Waterloo Courier* after his father's death in 1895. He soon sought other assistance in managing the financial operations of the paper, and for a time Edwin Mesick and T. P. Myers were connected with management of the newspaper. Ultimately Hartman succeeded in finding the strong financial guidance he desired in the person of Arthur W. Peterson who had previously been associated with the *Indianapolis News* and the *Minneapolis Tribune*. In May of 1908 Peterson purchased a minority interest in the paper and became secretary and general-manager.

On January 18, 1909, the *Courier* observed its fiftieth anniversary, and the special edition of that date is a gold mine of information about the *Courier* and the early history of Waterloo. The size of this edition and the man-hours of work it entailed indicates that the newspaper was growing into a more prosperous publication. It had a staff of sixty persons (including newsboys) in that year.

In this period the opposition to the employment of women was broken down. The *Courier* had written editorially in 1890 that, while "responsible

young women might teach school or become librarians, there is no telling what sort might come to work in an office." But in 1906, Miss Margaret Van Metre, daughter of Isaiah, joined the staff as the first woman reporter, and soon became the paper's first society editor. On September 22, 1912, she married E. L. Corton whose services as reporter and city editor of the *Courier* covered a span of over forty years. In 1907 another precedent was broken when Mrs. Martha Taylor became the first advertising saleswoman and office assistant. She remained with the paper for more than forty years and lived to observe the paper's centennial in 1959.

The most famous name among *Courier* staff members is that of Sinclair Lewis whose Waterloo career lasted for only a few months in 1909. Colleagues remembered him as a shy, gangling, red-haired youth who often voiced his dreams of going off to the South Sea islands to write a novel. J. C. Hartman, however, was unimpressed with Lewis' knowledge of Iowa politics, and the two came to a mutually agreeable parting of the ways.

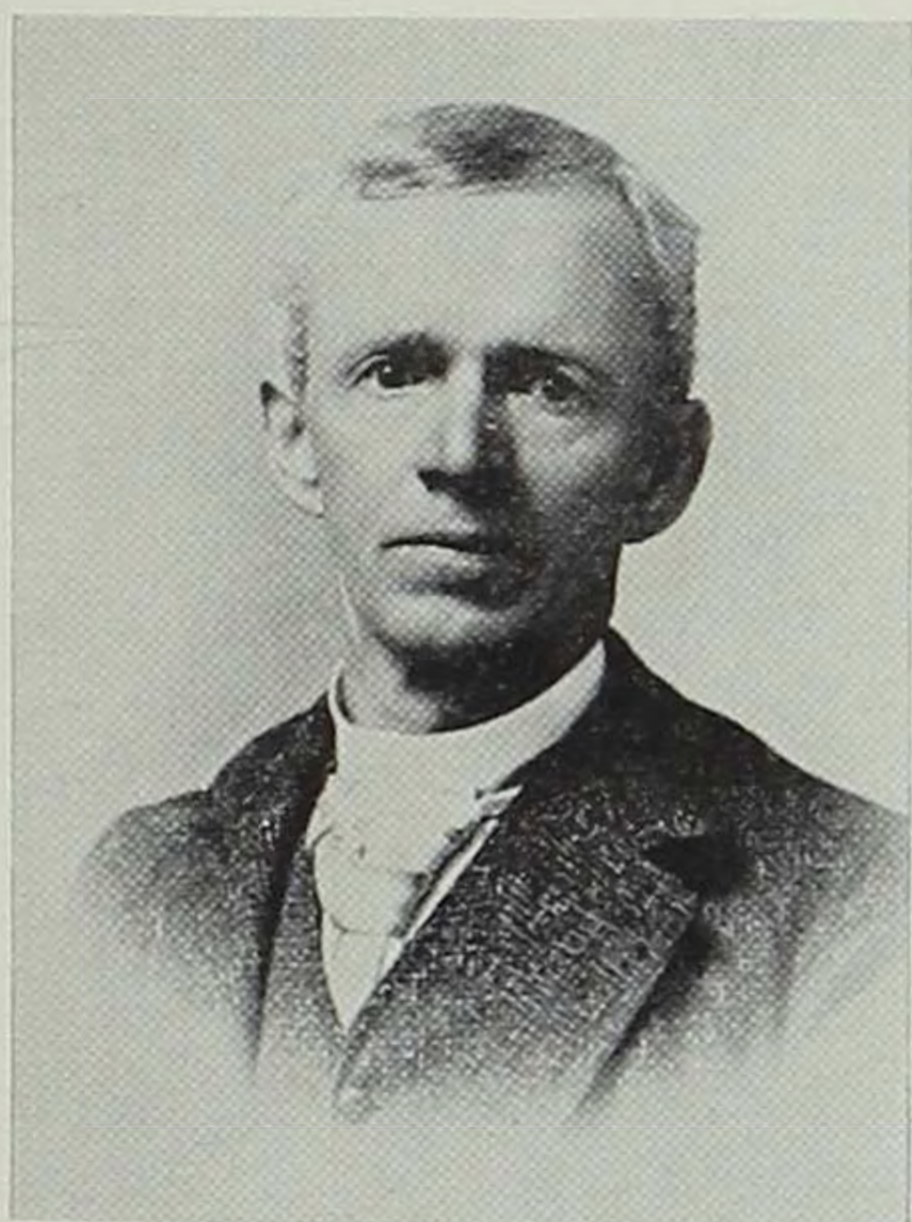
Meanwhile, Waterloo was undergoing rapid industrial growth. The Rath Packing Company moved from Dubuque to Waterloo in 1891 and began a slow growth which was eventually to make it one of the largest hog-slaughtering plants in the world. The city in the ensuing growth period became a center for such products as cream

separators, mill work, and gasoline engines. The population doubled in the single decade between 1900 and 1910 — from 12,580 to 26,693.

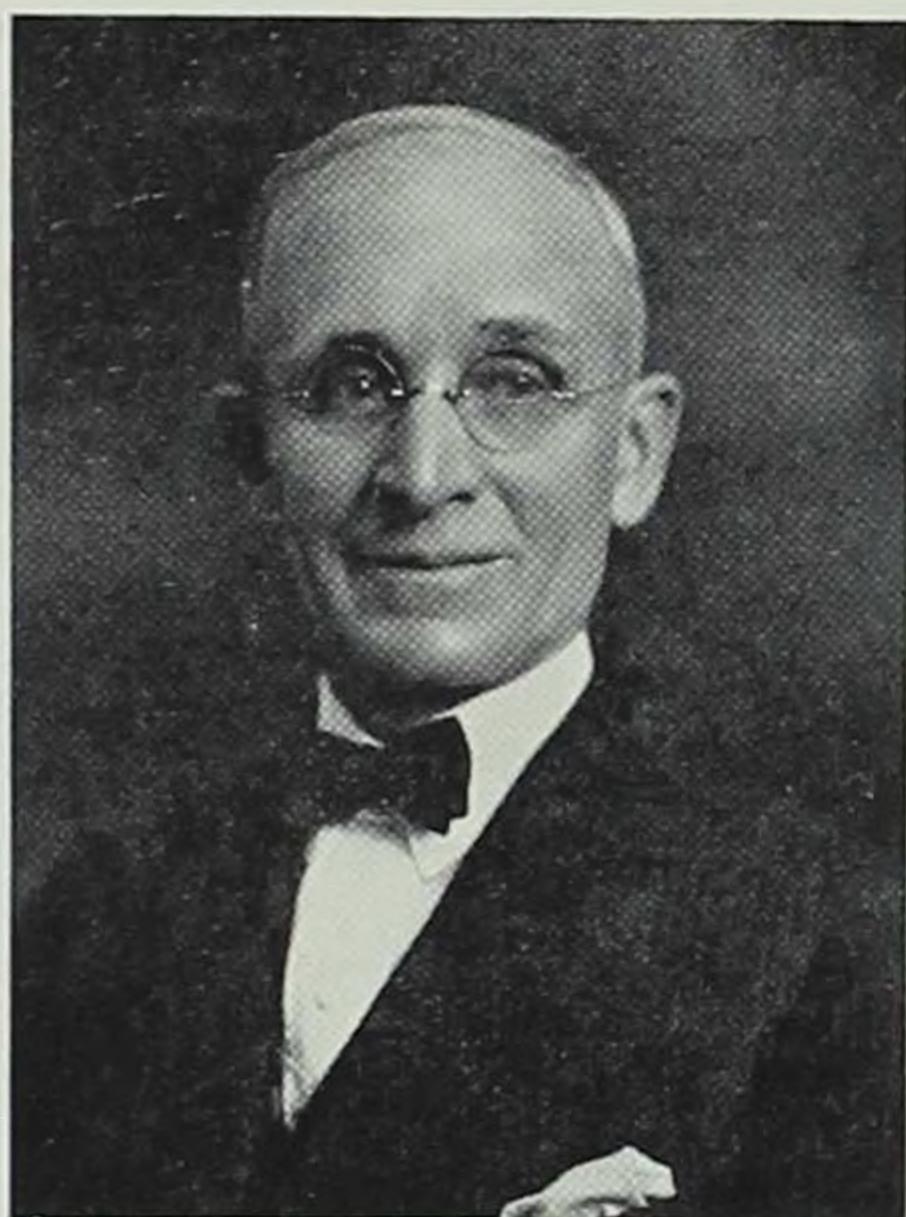
The second decade saw the *Courier* circulation grow to the point where improved printing facilities were necessary. The first linotype had been installed in 1897 after J. C. Hartman had carefully compared the cost with that of hand-set type provided by two women compositors, Hattie Quest and Katie Coombs. Now, however, another linotype was needed, and a 16-page perfecting press was purchased and was to be used until 1926. This was the first *Courier* press to print from a continuous roll of paper rather than on separate sheets laboriously fed into the press by hand.

The year 1914 marked two important events for the *Courier*. The purchase of the *Iowa State Reporter* was announced on March 10, 1914. The consolidation may have been consummated the previous year. An item of \$54,000 in an old 1913 ledger book is followed by the notation: "R. & printing equipment."

Also in 1914 the *Courier* became a charter member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Before that date, dishonest publishers sometimes made exaggerated circulation claims in order to attract advertising. But the ABC, a successor to earlier organizations with the same purpose, audited all circulation claims and thus protected both the honest publishers and the advertiser. Under the first



WILLIAM H. HARTMAN



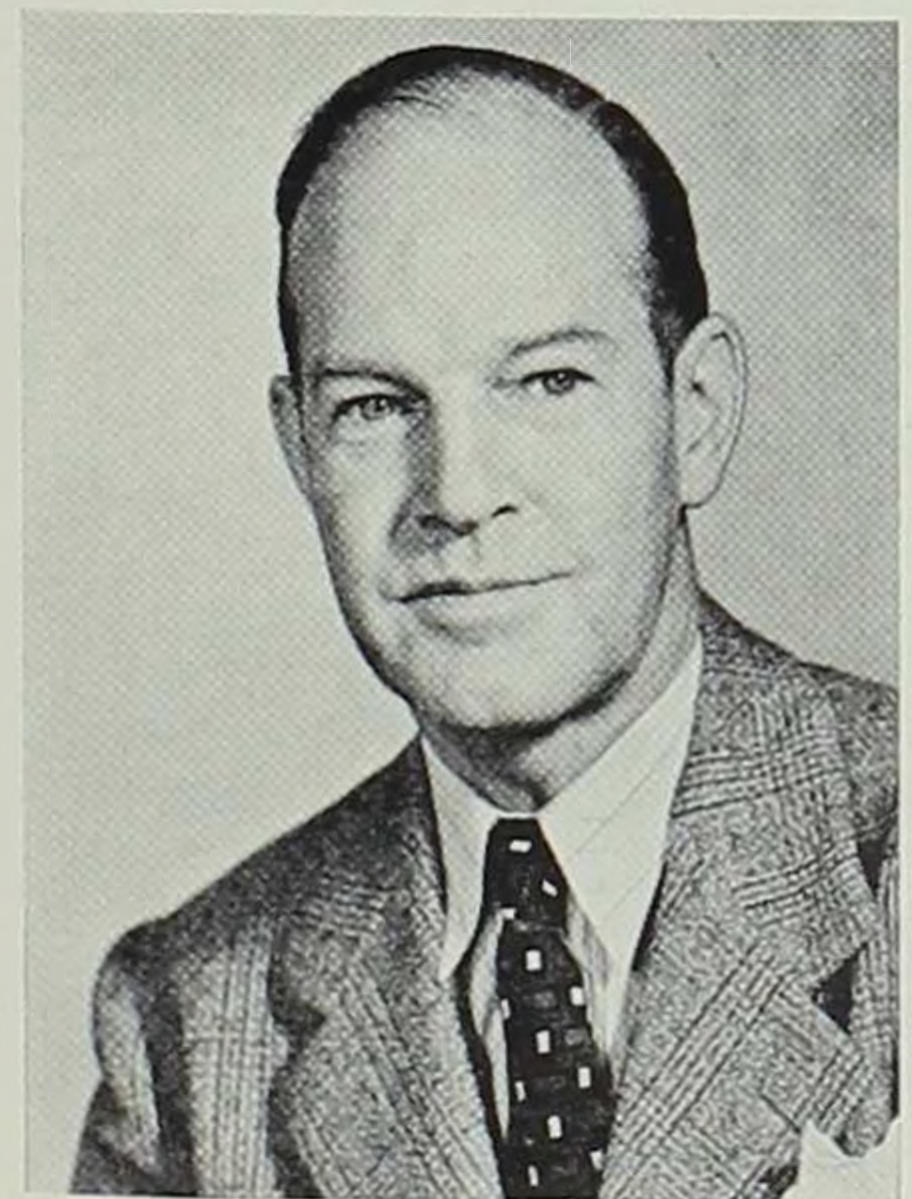
JOHN C. HARTMAN



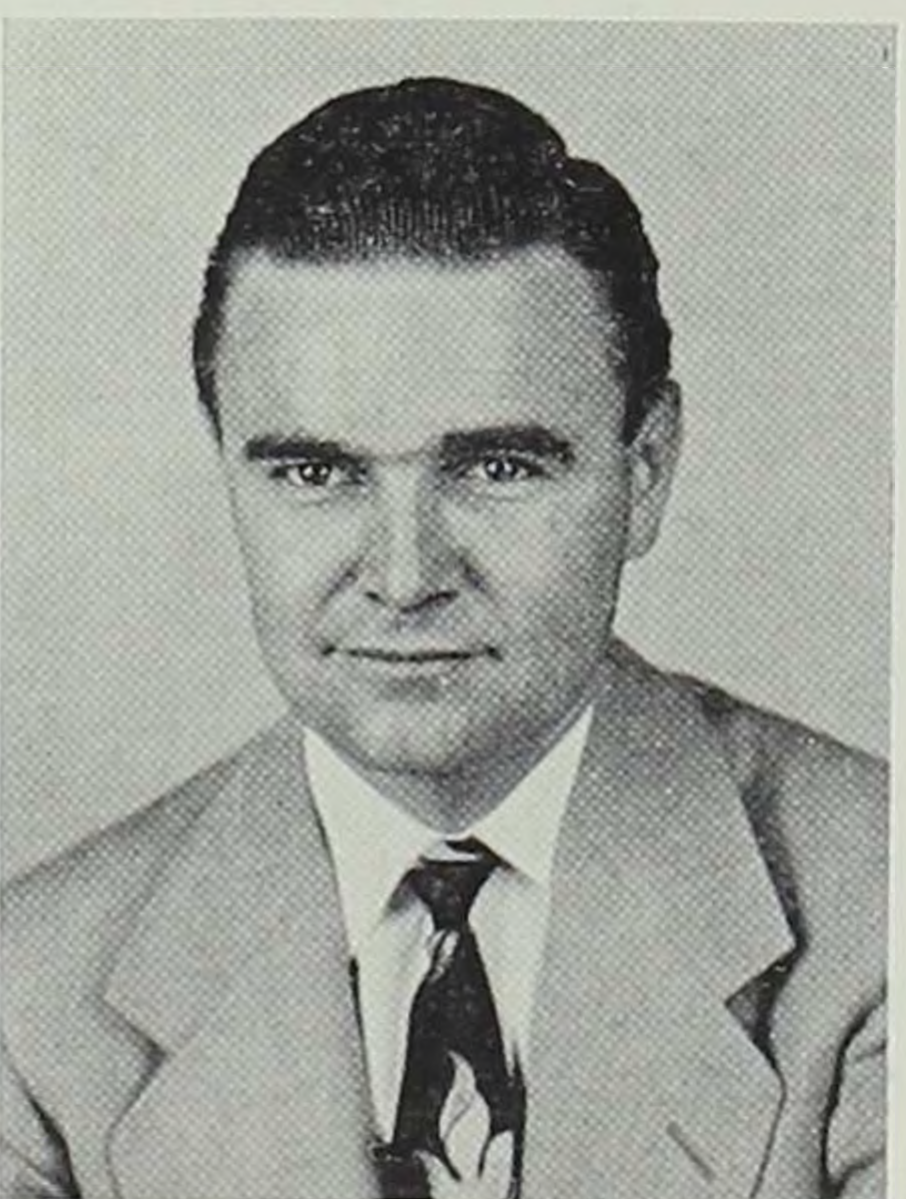
KARL C. VON LACKUM



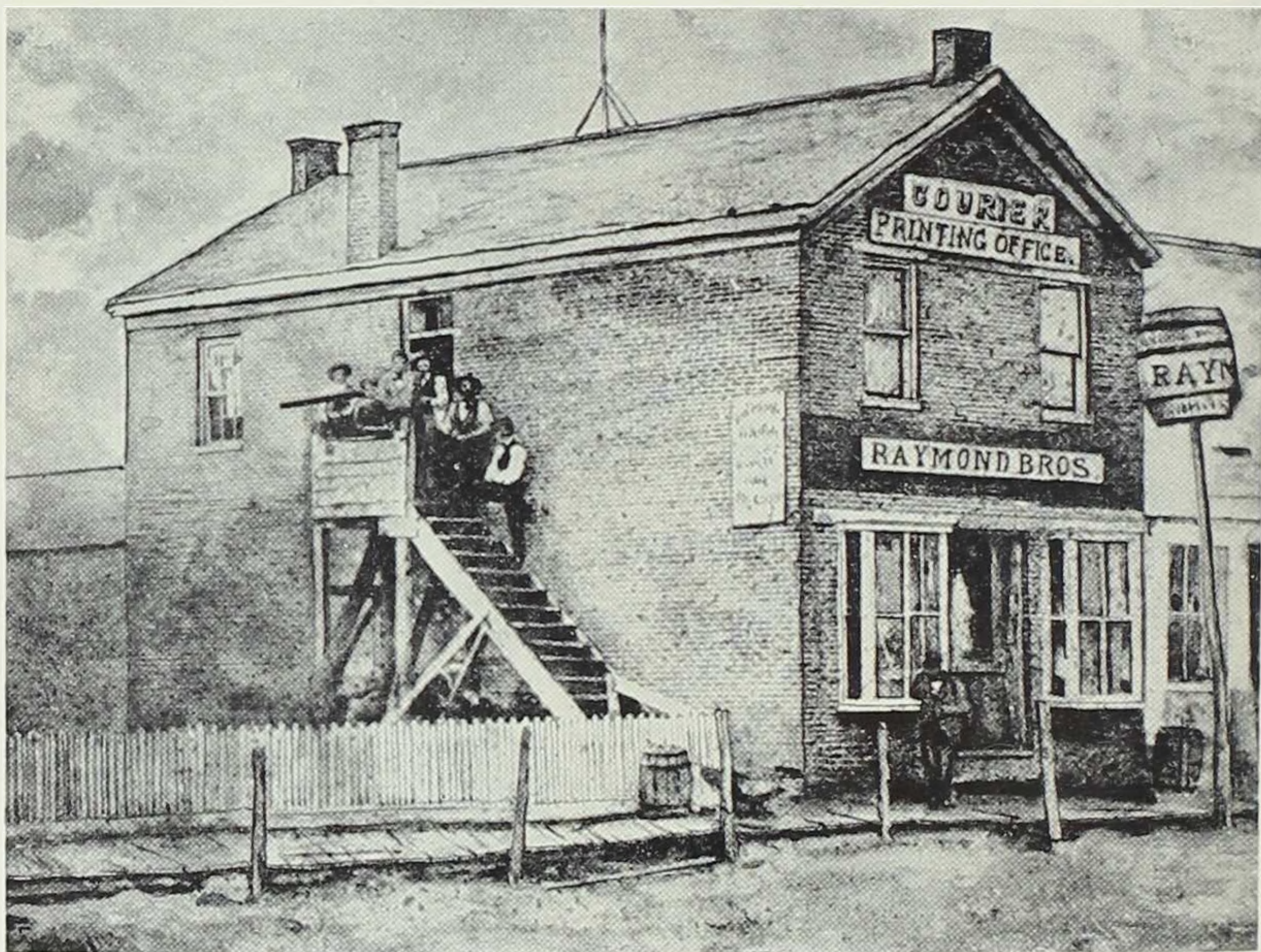
JOHN P. VON LACKUM II



JACKSON MCCOY



ROBERT J. MCCOY



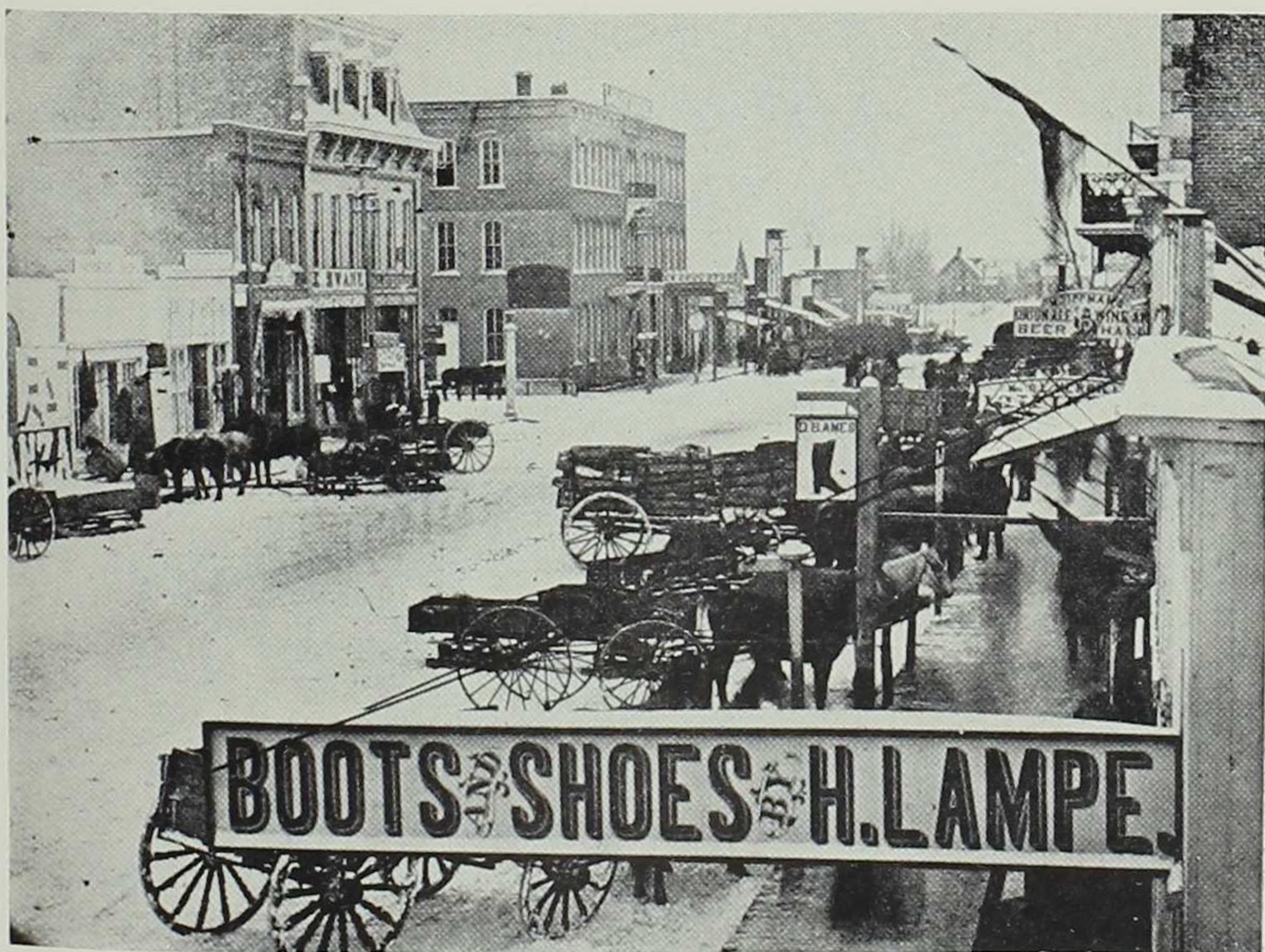
Raymond Bros. Store & Courier Office
522 Commercial Street, 1860



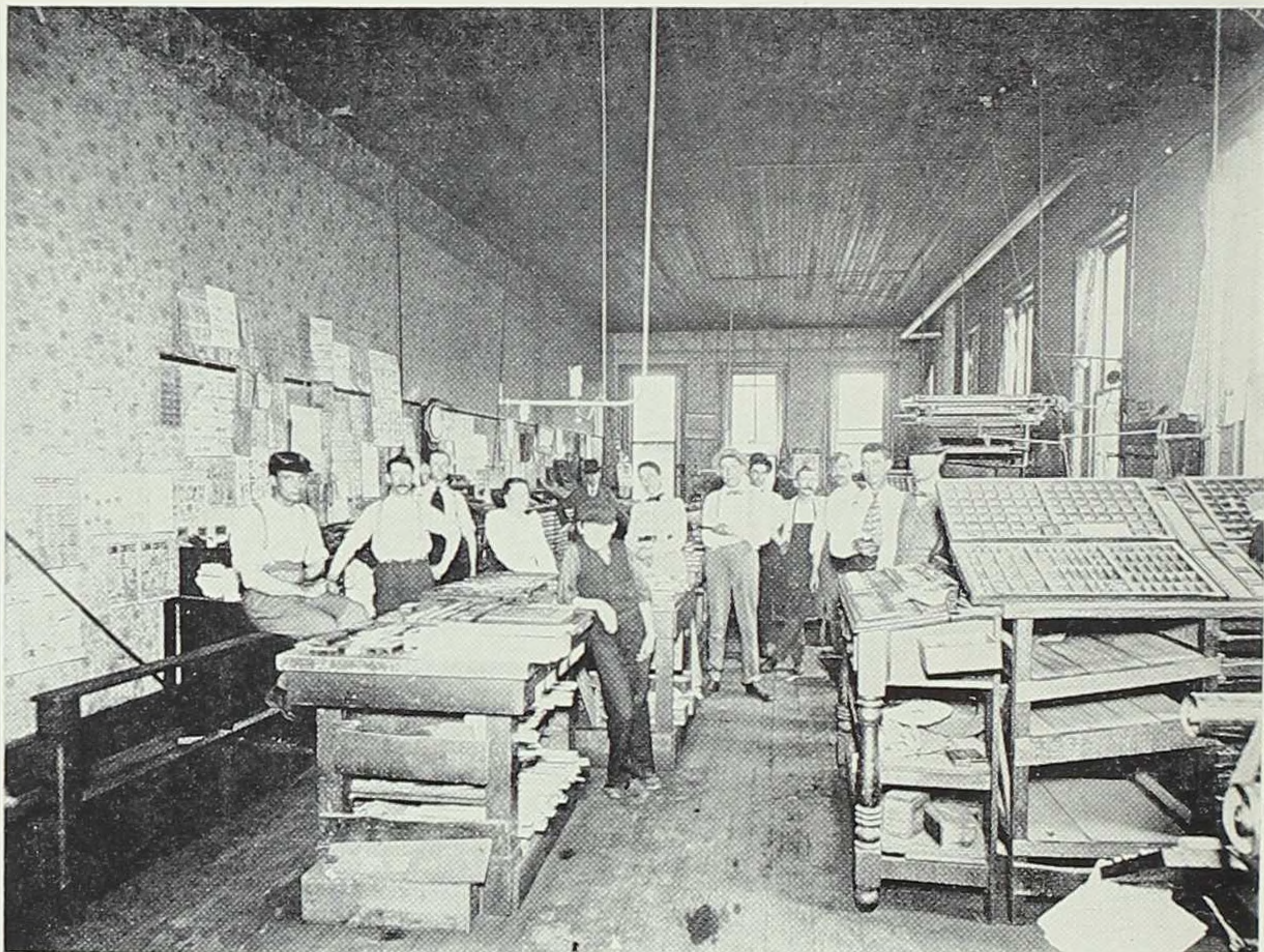
Intersection of Commercial Street & Park Ave., January, 1866. Post office now occupies corner where fence and log cabin are shown. Courier Building covers vacant area in foreground. (1928)



View of business section of Commercial Street in 1866



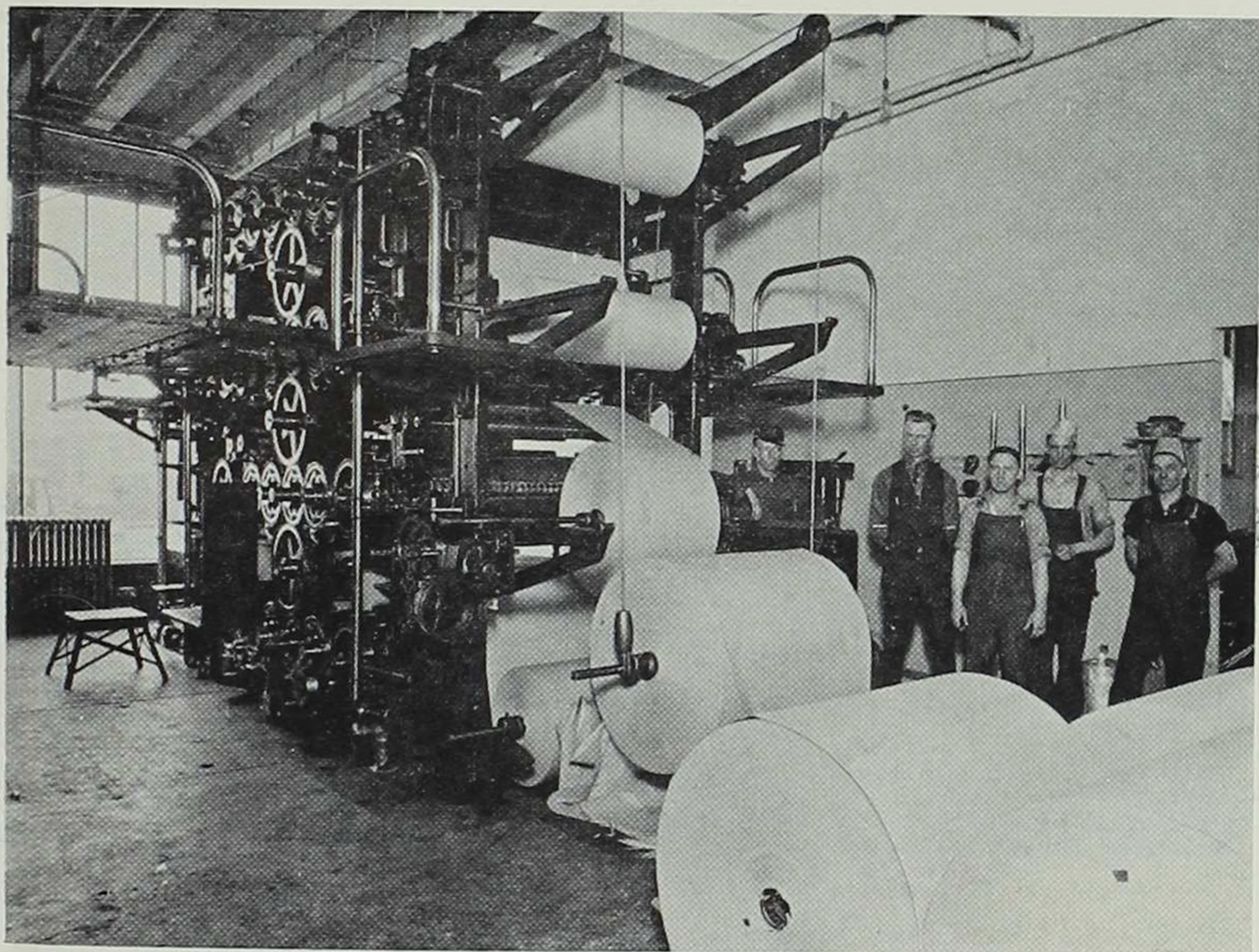
East Fourth Street looking north from Water Street, 1876



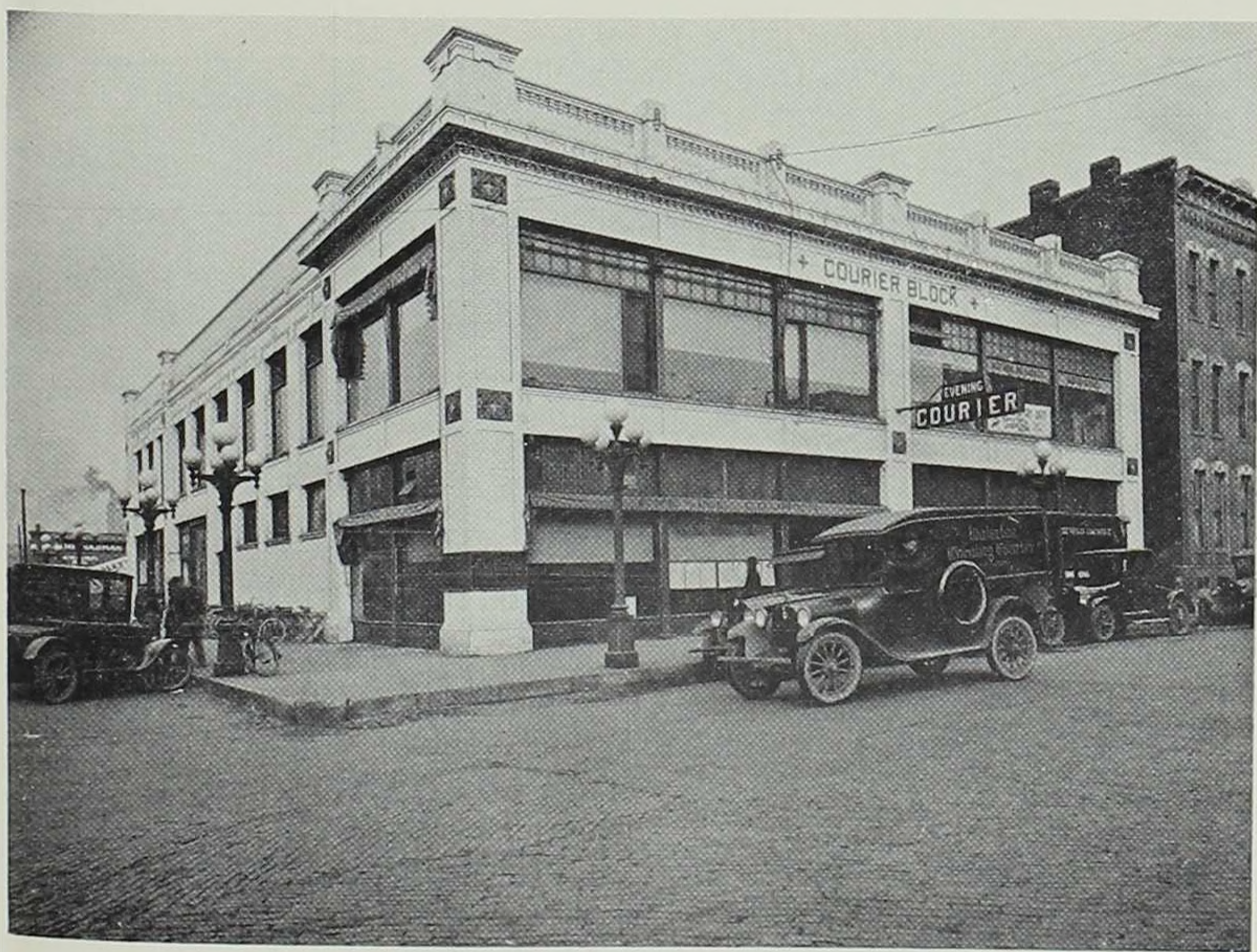
Interior of *Courier* offices on Bridge Street between Cedar & Commercial (1889-1903)



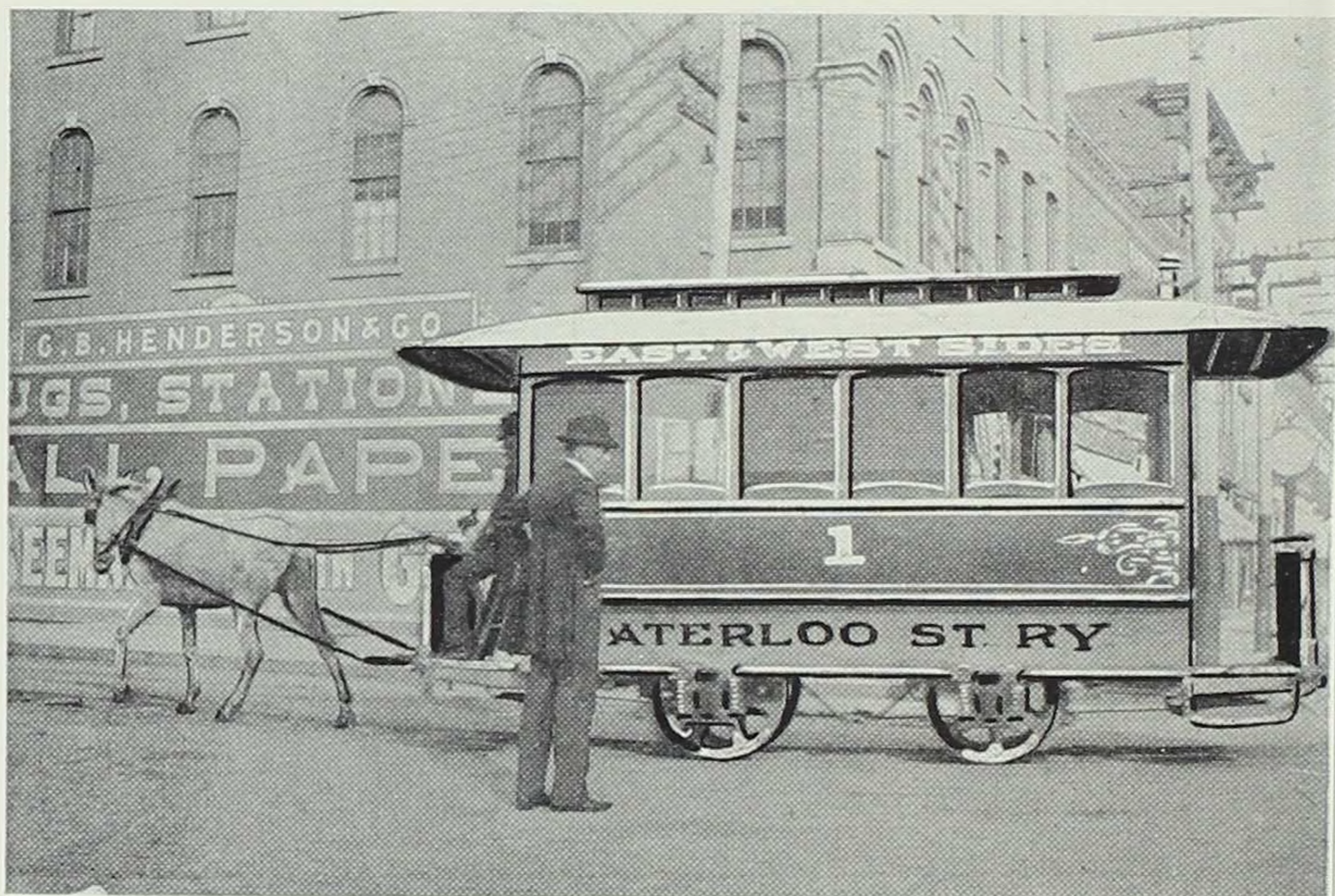
Courier Staff at old location (1889-1903) on Bridge Street between Cedar & Commercial



The Press Room in the 1920's



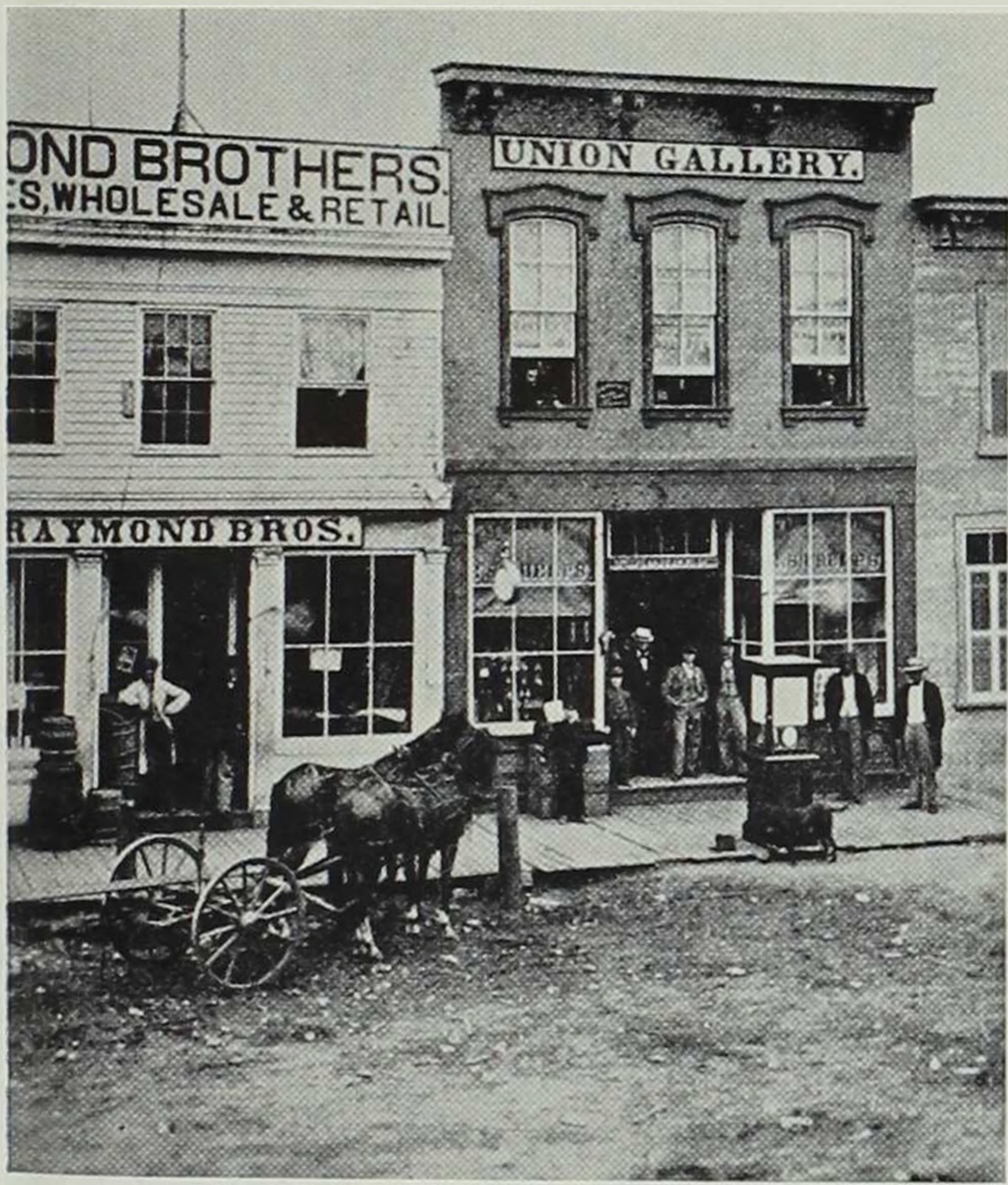
COURIER BLOCK During the 1920's



Last horsecar that passed over line in 1896



First Courier Truck — about 1920



Southwest corner Fourth & Commercial (1860's)



The Old Stage Line (1880's)

TENTH YEAR.

WATERLOO, IOWA, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 1, 1906

WHOLE NO.

COLESBURG CAPTURED

English Make Brilliant Coup and Drive Boers From the Town.

Boer Spies Secretly Enlist in English Army.

MARSHALL ATTEMPTS SUICIDE.

Ball Placed Just Above His Heart Is Likely to Prove Fatal.

(Associated Press.)
Iowa City, Jan. 1.—Capt. W. W. Marshall of Des Moines, attempted suicide here last night by shooting. A bullet entered his body just above his heart, and recovery is pronounced improbable. Worry over business matters is supposed to be the cause of his action. He leaves a wife and two daughters, prominent in Des Moines society. He is widely known throughout the state.

NEW MEN TAKE HOLD

Changes Brought by New Year at the Court House.

New Year's day is not being observed as a holiday at the court house. The county officers were all at their posts early this morning, and at 9 o'clock the board of supervisors convened in regular session. The first work of the board was the approval of the bonds of the newly elected officers. Herbert H. Cropper elected to succeed F. M. Rhoadmaker, as county treasurer.

NEW POSTAL RULINGS

Business Houses on New Secure Special Money Orders.

Blanks With Firm Name Printed on Them to be Furnished.

write: "It would be much advantageous to our design if, in the interval, you discontinue with some of the most able workmen to make out the best and most facile way for a post, which in process of time, would be the king's best highway, as likewise passengers and accommodation at rivers, fords or other necessary places."
FIRST MAIL TRIP
The Historian says: "The postman started on his first trip New Year's day, 1673. His route was through Hartford, Stamford, New Haven, Hartford and Springfield, by roads, wide paths, Indian trails and marked trees. There was an admirable forerunner in Governor Lovelace's scheme. That indefatigable horseman of his was an

ANXIETY FELT HERE

Over Report of Capture of Signal Man in Philippines.

There have been numerous inquiries made today regarding a special dispatch from Manila which appeared in yesterday's papers. The dispatch says: "Six men of the signal corps were attacked at Talevera, east of Talar, by a force of 200 insurgents, and four of them were either killed or captured."

WILL DIG UP THE BIG F

Cardiff Giant is to be Placed in Exhibition Again.

History of the Famous Fort Dodge.

FIFTEENTH YEAR.

WATERLOO, IOWA, THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 19, 1906.

NO. 4

THE CATASTROPHE GROWS IN HORROR

Appalling Loss of Life and Property Are Reported from the Interior of California.

The Terrible Destruction Wrought in San Francisco Cal.

Waterloo, Iowa, Saturday, May 21, 1907.

HOME EDITION

LINDBERGH COMPLETES NEW YORK TO PARIS FLIGHT

In the Spotlight of TODAY'S News

AN EPOCHAL FLIGHT
Slim Lindbergh, lanky lad from the midwest, was lucky again today. Spending several weeks in the Atlantic, he came in sight of land this afternoon on his bold attempt at a nonstop flight from New York to Paris.
As these lines were written he had not yet landed at Le Bourget, but the peril of the sea no longer confronted him. He was safe; if not an aviator, at least above the world's map, and already the world

DEMOCRATS FEEL COUNTRY'S PRESS UNFAIR TO PARTY

Handicapped in Efforts to Get Real Issues Before Voters.

"HONESTY IN GOVERNMENT" MAY BE GREAT SLOGAN

Iowa Girl Marries Magnate



NOW OR NEVER IS Y. W. C. A. FEELING AS GAP NARROWS

Building Fund Campaigners Feel This Is the End: No Third Drive.
\$20,000 STILL NEEDED TO RAISE DEBT LOAD

Does His Stuff



YANKEE FLIER CROSSES ATLANTIC IN 33 HOURS LANDS SAFELY AT PARIS

Enthusiastic Crowd at Le Bourget Welcomes Daring Flier at Finish of Unparalleled Progress of Lonely Flight Over

ESTABLISHED 1854

WATERLOO, IOWA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1941

EIGHTEEN PAGES

PRICE THREE

U. S. DECLARES WAR ON JAPAN

3,000 CASUALTIES IN JAP ATTACKS ON HAWAII

Battlefield Between U. S. and Japan

Wins Invasion Road QUICK ACTION

ESTABLISHED 1854

★

WATERLOO, IOWA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 1945

EIGHTEEN PAGES

PRICE THREE

HAIL DAWN OF NEW PEACE ERA

War Over, Ditched Jap Planes Attack

(By the Associated Press.)
An attack on American forces by Japanese suicide planes 12 hours after President

Gas, Canned Goods Off Rationing

SNYDER CALLS EMPLOYMENT

Lifting Effective

Peace—It's Wonderful!

ARMIES HALT AS JAPANESE GIVE UP FIGHT

ABC audit, the *Courier's* circulation was established at 13,197.

Growth of the paper during and immediately following World War I made the acquisition of larger quarters imperative, and in 1923 the enterprise was moved to the present location at the corner of Commercial Street and Park Avenue. The Goss press, capable of printing 24,000 16-page papers an hour, had to be dismantled and moved to the new location over the week end.

On September 26, 1923, General Manager Peterson, who had guided the financial operations of the paper through this period of growth, died and was succeeded by his nephew, Jackson McCoy, who had served as his assistant for eleven years. A new period of expansion began under McCoy's direction. Increased emphasis on the classified advertising section resulted in the growth of that department. J. C. Hartman, in the newsroom, moved Wilton "Hap" Floberg from the city reporting staff into the position of the first sports editor, and that section was expanded. In 1926, a new Duplex Web-perfecting Unitype press capable of printing 37,250 papers an hour was installed. (Three units were installed in that year and a fourth in 1936.)

This was the period of the stiffest competition between the *Courier* and the *Morning Tribune*. The editorial staff under Hartman's direction fought for "exclusives" and "scoops" in the circu-

lation battles of that era. The *Courier* forged ahead in circulation within the city, but the *Tribune*, with the appearance of rural free delivery and the advantage of morning publication (permitting over-night delivery), gained dominance in the rural territory and smaller towns of the area. Evidence of the fluctuating financial fortunes of the period is the fact that the *Courier's* advertising lineage dropped from 6,316,366 in 1920 to 6,130,040 in 1925, climbing back to 6,402,592 in 1930.

The coming of the depression, however, greatly intensified the struggle, and it soon became apparent that, with the sudden drop in advertising revenue, both papers would not survive. Employees of the *Courier* voluntarily took a 10 per cent cut in salary, and over at the *Tribune*, General Manager Harry Shaw and Editor William Reed could not meet their payroll until the carrier boys reported in with their collections.

Finally, in the spring of 1931 the *Courier* purchased the *Waterloo Morning Tribune* for \$360,936. This final consolidation was in accord with the trend toward one-newspaper cities elsewhere in Iowa and in the nation. A single newspaper can provide complete coverage of a retail market for an advertiser much more efficiently and inexpensively than can two or more newspapers. The greater financial stability, moreover, makes the newspaper more independent in its editorial policy and enables it to provide better news coverage and more

expensive features. And, finally, with the appearance of radio (and later television), the newspaper could not be accused of having a monopoly of the news-disseminating function. Furthermore, with the elimination of intra-city newspaper rivalry, Iowa papers entered into a new period of inter-city competition, struggling for circulation in the "fighting territory" at the fringes of their market zones.

At the time of its sale to the *Courier*, the *Waterloo Morning Tribune* was operating a radio station with the call letters composed of the initial letters in the newspaper's name. But the *Courier* was unable at this time to purchase the radio station; and WMT was purchased by the Iowa Broadcasting Company, a subsidiary of the *Des Moines Register*. The station was moved to Cedar Rapids at this time; it was acquired by the present owners in 1944.

With the purchase of the *Tribune*, the *Courier* acquired an extensive rural circulation and began publication of a morning edition to satisfy the needs of these subscribers. Saturday afternoon publication was discontinued and the Sunday morning edition substituted. Publication of these morning editions was made possible by the fact that a morning Associated Press franchise had been acquired with the purchase of the *Tribune*.

The merger caused the circulation of the *Courier* to rise from 21,135 in 1930 to 33,766 in 1931.

But there was considerable duplication in the circulation lists of the two papers and the *Courier's* circulation dropped back to 29,521 in 1932 and then to 27,227 in 1933 as the depression forced many farmers and unemployed city workers to cancel their subscriptions. Yearly advertising lineage dropped from 6,402,592 in 1930 to 5,059,824 in 1935.

Another competitive struggle was added to complicate the economic problems of this period. The owners of the *Tribune* by the terms of the sale had agreed not to engage in the newspaper business in Waterloo for ten years. But a few years following the sale, Harry Shaw invested his share of the proceeds from sale of the *Tribune* and WMT in printing equipment to publish a daily newspaper in Cedar Falls. The Cedar Falls *Daily News*, first an afternoon paper, then a morning paper, and finally a weekly, was a fiercely-burning but brief star in the newspaper field, and it became defunct in 1937.

This competition, however, stimulated the *Courier* into naming its first full-time photographer, Bruce A. Palmer, and into installing its own one-man engraving equipment. When the Cedar Falls *News* ceased publication, the *Courier* acquired its photo-engraving plant and Arthur Roop became the first full-time photo-engraver. Previously the *Courier* engravings had been made at a commercial plant in Waterloo, but the Sunday edition,

with the need for Saturday night service, made the establishment of its own plant imperative.

John C. Hartman, who had earned the Iowa Press Association's "Master Editor" award, died after a lingering illness on January 3, 1941. He had seen the newspaper grow from a struggling frontier weekly to the dominant daily newspaper in more than a dozen counties in northeastern Iowa, with correspondents in nearly 100 communities and a circulation in some 35,000 homes. For many years he made a hobby of Indian lore and historical studies. His *History of Black Hawk County* remains a prime reference book on the early history of the Waterloo area. His widow, the former Miss Ida Hummel, survived and passed her ninety-eighth birthday in 1958.

DAVID DENTAN

Molders of the Modern *Courier*

Shortly after John C. Hartman's death, his nephew, John P. von Lackum II, became president of the W. H. Hartman Company, and another nephew, Karl C. von Lackum, became vice-president. Jackson McCoy, while retaining the position of general manager, also assumed the title of editor and began editorial direction of the paper.

John P. von Lackum II had come to the *Courier* in 1915 and had worked in the circulation department, eventually becoming city circulation director. He had supervised the first truck delivery of papers in the early twenties, and his work in mapping the city to show the location of each home and its "newspaper status" was a factor in the survival of the *Courier* in the circulation battles with the *Tribune*.

J. C. Hartman's will left the majority of stock in the newspaper in trust under the joint control of the von Lackum family — John, Karl, Miss Genevieve von Lackum (who had been Hartman's assistant for twenty-two years) and Mrs. Lester (De Ette) Miller — all grandchildren of the original founder of the *Courier*. Karl von Lackum, in addition to serving as vice-president of the corporation, has also served for twenty-three years as

state editor, supervising the collection and editing of territory news.

World War II brought a period of circulation and advertising growth to the newspaper but it also brought serious management problems. The circulation between 1940 and 1945 rose from 34,759 to 42,730 and the advertising lineage increased from 5,540,388 lines to 6,709,710 in the same period. But the increasing shortage of newsprint forced the eventual rationing of advertising, and the departure of staff members for service, including some key personnel, created manpower shortages. Women took over some of the reporting assignments on the city staff and proved so competent that the practice of employing one or two women reporters, in addition to those in the women's department, was continued in the post-war years.

The war brought rapid industrial expansion to Waterloo as the Deere Tractor Works went into production of tank transmissions, and the Rath Packing Company ran full blast to provide meat both for the United States and for lend-lease purposes. Other Waterloo industries made important contributions to the war effort.

It was a period in which the newspaper bore a heavy responsibility for reporting the war news without violating the voluntary censorship then in effect. The *Courier* was the first to report the grim news on November 13, 1942, when the Navy an-

nounced that all five Sullivan brothers from Waterloo, who had enlisted together, had died together when the cruiser *Juneau* was sunk in the South Pacific.

The end of the war produced the last "extra" ever published by the *Courier*. The news staff had maintained an "around the clock" watch for several days in expectation that the Japanese surrender was imminent. Finally, the cry, "Let her roll," was shouted down to the pressroom by Managing Editor Gene Thorne, himself a veteran of the war who had seen active combat duty in Sicily and Italy. The *Courier* extras were sold out as quickly as they could be carried out on the street. Waterloo citizens, who were parading up and down the streets both on foot and in automobiles, shouting and blowing horns, had already received the news by radio but purchased the extras as souvenirs of the event.

An enormous expansion in economic activity followed the end of the war as the public sought to satisfy the pent-up demand which had been denied by war restrictions. Farmers were particularly prosperous and this brought rising incomes throughout northeastern Iowa. The circulation of the *Courier* increased to 49,154 in 1950, and advertising lineage rose to 12,394,284.

Jackson McCoy, who had directed the newspaper through a great depression and a great war and had made it into a prosperous organ with edi-

torial prestige and public respect, died following an emergency appendectomy on June 22, 1952. His son, Robert J. McCoy, trained by his father in the business, was named editor and general manager to succeed him.

The younger McCoy inaugurated a new program of expansion to keep pace with the growing size of the city and the responsibilities of the newspaper. Colored comics and a magazine supplement were added in 1952, and the sports, farm, and women's departments were expanded. In 1957 the newspaper was enlarged to nine columns and the typographical format modernized.

Soon, however, another major expansion became necessary. Although the circulation had approximately tripled since the *Courier* moved into its new building in 1923 and although the population of Waterloo had increased from the 36,230 of 1920 to the estimated 75,000 of today, the publication of the paper was being carried on in space only slightly larger than that used in 1920.

Therefore a major expansion of the building was undertaken in 1958 and will be completed sometime this year. The expansion involves construction of a third floor for the newsroom on the present building and the installation of a Goss "anti-friction" press capable of printing 60,000 64-page papers an hour. The press will enable the *Courier* to print color photo-engravings.

DAVID DENTAN

The Blackhawk Courier

Carefully filed away in the State Historical Society of Iowa newspaper collection is a bound volume of *The Blackhawk Courier* from its inception at Waterloo on January 18, 1859, through No. 47 of Vol. 2 dated December 11, 1860. Although this priceless volume is one hundred years old it will, with the same care and protection, continue to serve scholars a century hence. The ink has not faded and the name of the addressee — Historical Society — is still clearly legible on the top of page one of many issues.

This volume of *The Blackhawk Courier* is the most valuable single source of Waterloo and Black Hawk County history before the Civil War. An examination of the first issue clearly demonstrates that the proprietors, W. H. Hartman and G. D. Ingersoll, believed wholeheartedly in their slogan which appeared on the masthead — "Devoted to General News, Agriculture, Science and the Diffusion of Republican Principles."

In his "Salutatory" editor W. H. Hartman outlined his motives and objectives:

Like other men, we possess a restless ambition — but we hope, a laudable one. . . . We know too well the obstacles which oppose a young man as he enters upon his

profession in one of the old settled States, to believe that we cannot be able to ultimately accomplish, in this infant State, more for ourselves and for the community in which we may live. . . .

We desire to benefit every occupation, and to render all assistance in our power, to the developing of the unlimited resources of wealth in this County and State. We wish also to help build up, here upon the banks of this crystal Cedar, a populous, wealthy and influential city, the fame of which shall be known as well for its virtues and learning as for its greatness. Hence, we shall endeavor to communicate articles upon Education, Agriculture, the liberal and mechanical Arts, as well as upon the various professions practiced in our midst. In addition to this we shall lend our aid to the dissemination of true religious and political principles — such principles as we in our youth were taught to reverence and admire. As we are devotedly attached to the maxims and principles of the Republican party, we shall zealously labor to make the *Courier* a faithful organ of that party; and while we claim the right to speak our own sentiments freely, we shall not deny the same right to others of different opinions, but invite fair, honest and impassionate discussion. Let it be remembered, then, that we ourselves are not only members of that great party, but that whatever shall emanate, as political matter, from our mind shall be *republican* in spirit. We shall also take much delight in recording all important events as they transpire in our community, in order to keep our Eastern friends well informed of our progress and prosperity. We shall watch with anxiety the changes that are continually taking place in the older States, and for the benefit of our producers, shall give the market prices of Chicago, Dubuque and Waterloo.

In conclusion let us say, that we hope our industry and enterprise will justly merit an extensive patronage; that all

we ask is, if we prove to be of some substantial advantage to this society and to the world, we may be encouraged and supported in our laudable endeavors.

Like so many pioneer newspapers, the *Blackhawk Courier* devoted most of its front page to poetry, essays, and literature. Much of this was pirated from contemporary newspapers and periodicals. Under "Poetical" there was an anonymous poem entitled "The Old Woman to her Daughter," whose moral was good albeit the verse bad. Under "Miscellaneous" there appeared a two-column story on "The Two Homes" which showed the need of love and affection on the part of wife and children if a husband were to succeed.

The content of "The Penalties of Slave Trading" is obvious; at least a half dozen related items appeared on this subject in the first issue.

The decision of the Connecticut Supreme Court that a public schoolhouse could not be used for any other purpose appeared under the caption "Important Decisions."

The fifth column entitled "All Sorts of Paragraphs" contained twenty-two items including the population of Iowa, the value of Minnesota taxable property, the loss of steamboats on Western Waters, the value of California gold reaching New York City, the importation of Africans to Georgia, and the sale of 210 slaves for \$147,000 in South Carolina.

The last two columns featured "House and

Farm" and contained articles on "Don't Use a Check-Rein," "The Gross and Net Weight of Swine," "Profits of Bees," "Liquid Glue," and "Preserving Leather." These were gleaned from the *Ohio Farmer*, *New England Farmer*, *Country Gentleman*, and *Genesee Farmer*. An original discussion of "Sorghum in Iowa" must have elicited the attention of rural readers.

The second page of the *Courier* contained, in addition to the "Salutatory," articles on the "Revival of the Slave Trade" and "Pike's Peak — Another Golden Humbug!" Shorter news items told of a battle of Americans with natives of the "Feegee" Islands and the arrival of the Overland Mail at St. Louis carrying mail from San Francisco dated as late as December 17th.

"Goings-On In Iowa" was a column prepared "solely for the *Courier*." It contained nine articles on such varied subjects as banking, robbery, and murder. Statistics from the *Dubuque Express & Herald* indicated 114 individuals had been committed to the Dubuque County Jail during 1858. Of this number seven were charged with murder and four with assault, with intent to kill. According to the *Express & Herald* — "The nativity of the persons committed is reported as follows: Germans, 12; Americans, 11; Negroes, 1; English, 5; Irish, 80; unknown, 15; two persons were sentenced to death, but neither have been executed."

Since the General Assembly was in session in

January, 1859, it is not surprising that several columns should be devoted to the "Laws of Iowa." The first issue of the *Courier* contained "An Act To provide a System of Common Schools." Fully one-fourth of the initial *Courier* was devoted to laws relating to education.

Measured in terms of local news the column on "Town and County" on page three of the *Black-hawk Courier* was perhaps the most revealing. The following are illustrative:

☞ The weather for a few days past has been very mild and a little inclined to be stormy.

☞ The Eastern Stage broke through the ice, yesterday afternoon, while attempting to cross the Cedar River at this place, a short distance above the dam. Not much damage was done. The horses, driver, coach, and "all hands," were soon ashore.

☞ Mr. A. H. Marsh, Dentist, at Cedar Falls, whose advertisement will be found in another column, informs us that he will come to Waterloo in a few weeks. He is a good Dentist.

☞ Jesse Clement, Esq., will deliver a lecture before the Young Men's Literary Society, at Cedar Falls, on to-morrow (Wednesday) evening. We have been unable to learn his topic.

☞ Let every one attend the meeting of the Young Men's Literary Society on Thursday evening next. The subject for discussion will be: — "*Resolved, That the Signs of the Times indicate a Dissolution of the Union.*"

☞ Those who send us marriages, deaths, notices of fairs, dedication of churches, religious notices of any kind, or proceedings of meetings, are informed that they will be inserted in the *Courier* free of charge. — Such favors are always thankfully received.

☞ The Independence *Eagle* says that a young man calling himself R. S. Kellogg, claiming to be an authorized travel Agent for magazines, succeeded in swindling some of the citizens of Independence. Look out for him.

In offering to print wedding announcements free the *Courier* departed from the practice of many Iowa editors, some of whom demanded a piece of the wedding cake, others as much as one dollar to print the notice. In the first *Courier* three marriages were recorded:

D. C. Cook to Caroline A. Courson, both of Waterloo.
Henry J. Thompson to Mary Hawkins, both of Union Township.

E. H. Dart to Mrs. Elizabeth Knapp, both of Blackhawk County.

Then as now, the *Blackhawk Courier* was an instrument for good. After summarizing the "Lecture to Young Men" by Reverend J. S. Whittlesey, the *Courier* concluded: "There will be another lecture on next Sabbath evening, and we know of no place where a young man can spend the Sabbath evening more pleasantly or profitably."

Five churches appeared in the *Courier's* Religious Directory.

<i>Church</i>	<i>Minister</i>	<i>Place</i>
Episcopal	B. R. Gifford	A.M. in Day's Hall; P.M. in Capwell's Hall
Congregational	J. S. Whittlesey	In basement of their church
Presbyterian	—————	In Baptist church
Methodist	H. Hood	A.M. in Benight's Hall; P.M. in Court House
Baptist	A. G. Eberhart	Baptist Church

The Young Men's Literary Association received equally warm support from the *Courier*.

Although the prominent literary institutions of our country are not located in our midst, yet we are daily associated with many of their most enterprising and brilliant graduates. . . . No better institution could be established to entertain and instruct any people than that created and supported by the young men of this town. By its debates we are strengthened in our reasoning powers and prepared to take an intelligent and humane position upon all of the questions which enter into the mixed policy of our government; and by its lectures our thoughts are expanded — our hearts improved, and we not only become conversant with the laws of Science, but learn who are the brightest literary lights in our midst, so that we may be induced to strive to improve and elevate our respective professions. For our part, we have been much delighted with the exercises of our Young Men's Literary Association which we have had the pleasure of attending.

The initial issue of the *Blackhawk Courier* contained nine columns of advertising. Lineage rates and cards of Waterloo and Cedar Falls businessmen appeared in the first column on page one. Six

legal firms — Warner H. Curtis, Bagg & Allen, and A. F. Brown of Waterloo, and McClure & Allen, Solomon Lombard, and Charles D. Gray of Cedar Falls — carried cards in the *Courier*. C. J. Plato advertised his banking house, John H. Leavitt was a General Land Agent, while J. H. Brown served as a Notary Public and General Agent.

Four hotels were prepared to comfort man and beast. M. Case, proprietor of the Cedar Valley House in West Waterloo, advertised that the Western Stage Company offices were located in his hotel from which stages arrived and departed "for different points, north, south, east and west." Joseph Henry was the proprietor of the Franklin House in West Waterloo, while J. Pulver owned the Western Hotel in Cedar Falls. George Secord's American Hotel on Main Street in Cedar Falls also served as headquarters for the Western Stage Company.

Doctors and dentists were just beginning to advertise. J. M. Harper, physician and surgeon, had his offices over H. Sherman's Store, and Dr. A. H. Marsh, dentist, was located with Dr. Bryant one door north of Mr. Carpenter's store. Dr. Marsh could insert artificial teeth, "from one to an entire set, on any principle practiced by the profession." He was also prepared to wait upon ladies at their residence, if desired.

Drugs and drugstores were doubtless a boon to the proverbial sturdy, albeit ailing Waterloo pio-

neers. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral was recommended "for the rapid cure of coughs, colds, hoarseness, bronchitis, whooping-cough, croup, asthma, and consumption." Ayer's Cathartic Pills claimed to cure "costiveness, bilious complaints, rheumatism, dropsy, heartburn, headaches arising from a foul stomach, nausea, indigestion, morbid inaction of the bowels and pain arising therefrom." Ayer's Cathartic Pills also promised to purify the blood so as to eliminate deafness, partial blindness, neuralgia and nervous irritability, derangement of the liver and kidneys, gout, and other kindred complaints.

Dr. Morse's Indian Root Pills claimed to have been discovered by "the first man to establish the fact that all diseases arise from impurity of the Blood — that our health, strength and life depended upon that vital fluid." Under the caption "What Are Good Medicines." readers were urged to use Graefenberg Family Remedies and thus avoid "using unknown and dangerous remedies."

In this idyllic age a century ago, the *Blackhawk Courier* carried the advertisement of Professor O. J. Wood's celebrated Hair Restorative which was "the only safe Preparation That does Not Dye, but will restore Gray Hair to Its original color, by Nature's own process."

A number of Waterloo merchants carried advertisements. Thus, W. W. Forry's Cedar Val-

ley Drug Store dealt in drugs, medicines, chemicals, oils, dye woods and dye stuffs, paints and varnishes, perfumery, painter's materials, window glass and putty, fine soaps, fine hair and tooth brushes, paint brushes, camphene, alcohol, burning fluid, turpentine, garden seeds, surgical and dental instruments, and pure wines and brandies for medicinal purposes. All goods were guaranteed pure, fresh, and genuine.

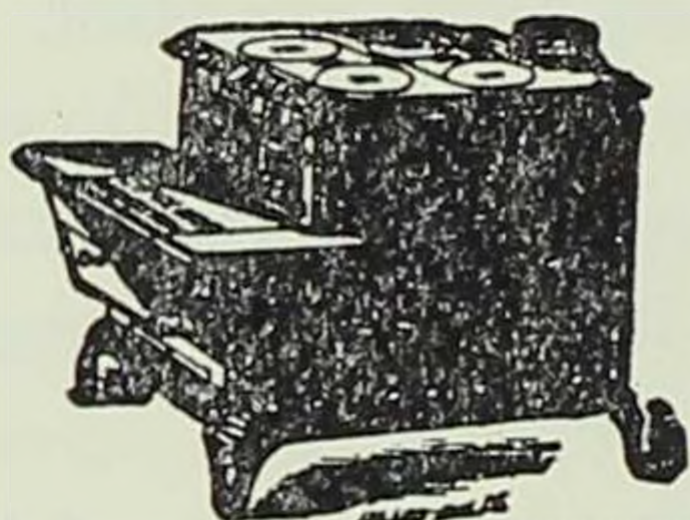
H. Sherman attracted readers to his \$12,000 stock of dry goods selling at cost by captioning his large advertisement — LATER FROM PIKE'S PEAK. Mr. Sherman had dry goods, groceries, crockery, hardware, ready-made clothing, boots and shoes, wooden ware, and a general assortment of all goods kept in a country store. He was prepared to sell these at cost for cash and to accept produce of all kinds in exchange for his goods.

In the weeks that followed, the *Courier* recorded the building of a bridge across the Cedar, the voyage of the *Blackhawk* from Cedar Rapids to Waterloo, the construction of the Dubuque & Pacific westward, and the unrest occasioned by the Pike's Peak gold rush. Such dramatic events as the execution of John Brown, the slave trade, Bleeding Kansas, and the Underground Railroad, caused the political cauldron in Iowa to seethe and boil. Meanwhile, education progressed and the westward moving religious revival permeated the

WATERLOO.

HARDWARE, IRON, STOVE AND TIN STORE

Commercial St., Waterloo, Iowa.



MAVERICK & SIBERLING

AT THE SIGN OF THE

Big Red Coffee Pot,

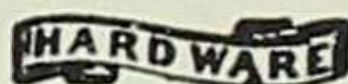
OFFER at reduced prices an extensive assortment of Hardware, unsurpassed in quality and variety, embracing the most

Improved Foreign and Domestic Manufactures,

Adapted for the use of

HOUSE CARPENTERS,
CARRIAGE MAKERS,
MILLWRIGHTS,
BLACKSMITHS,
MACHINISTS,
FOUNDERS,
FARMERS, &c.

Our stock of Builder's



is of the

BEST AND LATEST STYLES!

Having just received a fresh and complete stock from the manufacturers, we are prepared to furnish builders any amount desired.

Particular attention is called to our stock of

Cooking, Office and Parlor
STOVES,

Which we sell at a small advance above cost and transportation.

We also invite attention to our large assortment of

TINWARE.

As we do the work ourselves, we are enabled to offer Tin Ware as low as any place in the State. Particular attention is given to

Tin Roofing, Eave Troughs,
Lightning Rods and
Chain Pumps.

We are also Agents for Manny's Reaper, Mahle's Reaper and Mower, Green & Grave's Plows, manufactured at Cedar Rapids. We sell a Two Horse Scurrying Plow of Green & Grave's make for \$10, and warrant to give entire satisfaction.

We have on hand a large stock of Scythes, Smiths, Forks, Hoes, Rakes, Spades, Plows, Grain Cradles, &c., &c.

Call and look through our stock before purchasing elsewhere and satisfy yourselves.

Old Copper, Pewter and Castings taken in exchange for goods.

MAVERICK & SIBERLING.

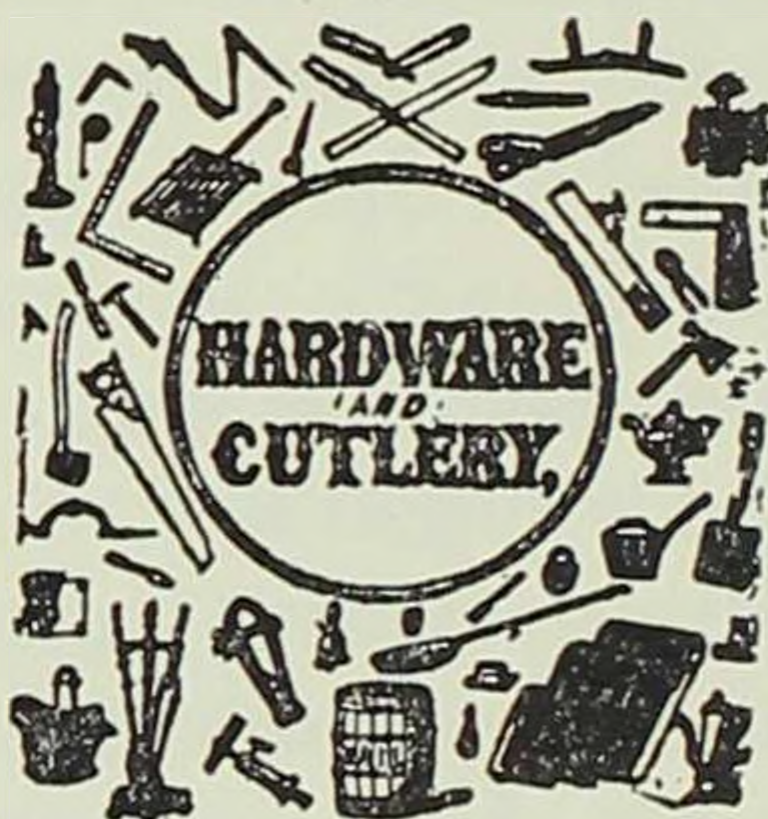
June 1850.

n23 1v.

WATERLOO.

Great Bargains!

—IN—



GROOCCERRIES!

Boots and Shoes,

AND STAPLE!

DRY GOODS,

—AT—

COUCH & HUNGERFORD'S,

ON MILL SQUARE.

—X—

THE SUBSCRIBERS having connected themselves together for the purpose of doing a

General Merchandising,

Are now prepared to furnish all Goods in their line as

CHEAP OR CHEAPER,

THAN EVER BEFORE OFFERED in

WATERLOO.

—

N. B.—All kinds of

PRODUCE TAKEN

In Exchange for Goods,

AT CASH PRICES!

—

John Deere's Celebrated Plows

FOR SALE,

AT REDUCED PRICES!

—

Storage and Commission.

We will attend to all Goods consigned to our care, with promptness. Our charges shall be low, as we shall do the business for accommodation rather than profit.

COUCH & HUNGERFORD.

A. C. COUCH,

H. S. HUNGERFORD,

[v1'n12'17]

April 1, '59.

town. It was with no little pride that the *Courier* recorded that sixty scholars in the Baptist Sabbath School had learned 7,044 verses of the Bible.

Getting out a newspaper in 1859 was no easy task. Times were hard and too many papers had been established in the previous four years, hence more papers were folding up than were being born. On September 27th the *Blackhawk Courier* apologized for its non-appearance the previous week and the meager variety of matter when it did appear: "The first is accounted for, by the fact that just as we were ready to go to press, we were so unfortunate as to 'pi' about a column of type, which as it was late before, rendered it utterly impossible to get out 'on time'; and the last was caused by the fact that all hands were very busy last week getting up the bar docket for this term of Court."

Possibly the skipping of an issue did not wear too heavily on the editor's soul, particularly with so many delinquent subscribers. On October 18th the *Blackhawk Courier* noted:

WOOD WANTED — Those of our subscribers who have agreed to pay us in wood for their paper, will confer a favor upon us by delivering the same *immediately*.

In a similar vein the editor seemed willing to barter for *Courier* subscriptions with non-subscribers.

TO FARMERS — We will pay on subscription, 50

cents per bushel for any amount of good, merchantable wheat delivered at this office. There is now no excuse for not taking your county paper, when three bushels of wheat will pay for it a whole year.

The editor was quick to note the effect of the rising tide of Republicanism on the Democratic press. On November 1, 1859, the *Blackhawk Courier* observed:

Four Democratic papers in Iowa have suspended publication since the 11th inst., viz; The Burlington Gazette, Maquoketa Sentinel, Benton County Democrat, and Marion Herald. Thus, one after another the Democratic papers are falling off before the advance of Republicanism in our State.

Lack of support for two Waterloo papers was noted in the *Courier* of October 11th:

The *Register* of last week announces its suspension, for want of a support sufficiently remunerative to make its continuance a paying business. The proprietor will now devote his time to canvassing for subscriptions to his proposed "Description of Blackhawk County." In this new undertaking, we hope that he will meet with abundant success. Such a work as he proposes is badly needed, and we hope that our readers will subscribe for a liberal number of copies.

Apparently the suspension of the *Register* brightened the prospects of the *Courier*, for plans were promptly made to enlarge the newspaper. On November 1, the *Courier* declared it would skip numbers 43 and 44 — November 8 and 15.

Two months later, on January 10, 1860, editor Hartman announced the close of the first year of the *Courier* with an appropriate editorial:

With this number closes the first volume of the COURIER. During the year which has so nearly passed away, we have labored hard and faithfully to get up a reliable and instructive paper, and one which should prove generally acceptable to its readers. . . . The publication of the COURIER was commenced under disadvantageous circumstances. The past two years have been unparalleled in the history of the West for scarcity of money and general stagnation of business, but thanks to the liberal encouragement of friends we have been enabled to furnish our subscribers regularly with their papers, and to look forward to the coming year with comparatively bright and flattering prospects. . . . Our paper is now one of the largest, and we shall spare no pains to make it, during the coming year, one of the best general newspapers in the interior of the State.

In the six years ending in 1859 fully 138 new newspapers were established in Iowa. In the quarter century between 1836 and 1860 a total of 222 papers had been established of which 118 were discontinued and only 104 remained when the Census of 1860 was taken. The perils encountered in establishing a pioneer press in Iowa is readily demonstrated by the losses incurred in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls area prior to 1860.

The value of the *Blackhawk Courier* can be illustrated by an excerpt from the Census of 1860:

Among the elements which determine the characteristics

of a people, no branch of social statistics occupies a more important place than that which exhibits the number, variety, and diffusion of newspapers and other periodicals. Composing, as they do, a part of the reading of all, they furnish nearly the whole of the reading which the greater number, whether from inclination or necessity, permit themselves to enjoy. . . . It was in this view that Lord John Russell . . . cited the multiplication and improvement in newspapers as gratifying evidences of the augmented wealth and expanding culture of the middle classes in Great Britain. And it was in this view, also, that a great Greek scholar was accustomed to say that a single newspaper published in the age of Pericles (had that age produced any such phenomenon) would, if handed down to us, be a better index of Athenian life and manners than can now be found in any existing memorials of the Grecian civilization.

Throughout its century of publication the *Courier* has faithfully served an ever-expanding community. It has been guided by men of high ideals who have done much to foster the cultural, educational, religious, and social growth as well as the industrial expansion of Waterloo. The State Historical Society of Iowa salutes the *Courier* as the chief recorder of history for Black Hawk County during the past century and wishes it well as it travels down the next one hundred years of pulsating, dramatic history. The Society, in its turn, pledges to preserve the daily record published by the *Courier* as it did when it first received the *Blackhawk Courier* a century ago.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

[illegible][illegible]

DAVESPORT

Commercial City

City's Ideal, Ocean Throat of Province

Davesport, Nant Co., Iowa

Incorporated 1888.

PRINCIPALS

J. C. LOPEZ, W. H. PRA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hon. J. H. Nease,	Geo. H. Biss,
Wm. F. Vande, Jr.,	F. M. Brown,
F. H. Hodge,	Z. R. Hays,
L. S. Vande,	J. M. Graham,
L. P. Conley,	H. H. Smith,

[illegible]

BLAUER
BOOK AND JOB
PRINTING
ESTABLISHED 1871
— OFFICE —
OFFICE OF COMMERCE
WATERLOO, IOWA
HARTMAN & INGER
PROPRIETORS.

W E have by far the largest and best Establishment to be found in the country. The "Country" of Georgia—land for the great FINEST, FINEST, AND DISTANCE. We are prepared to receive all kinds of GOLD AND SILVER. The State, United States, and all other countries. ESTABLISHED 1837. Extracted in a single day.

Neatness and B
 Those who desire a
 Business Cards, Blank
 Hand Bills, Blank
 Show Bills, Blank
 Circulars, Blank
 Pamphlets, Blank
 Law Blanks,
 can rely upon being supplied with
 new and complete
 send us your orders, and
 [Small illustration of a blank card]
BLANK
 W. A. HENRY
 100 N. 3rd St.
 ST. C.

This image shows a blank white page. At the very bottom, there is a dark, horizontal strip, likely representing the binding or the edge of the paper where it was scanned. The rest of the page is completely empty and white.

